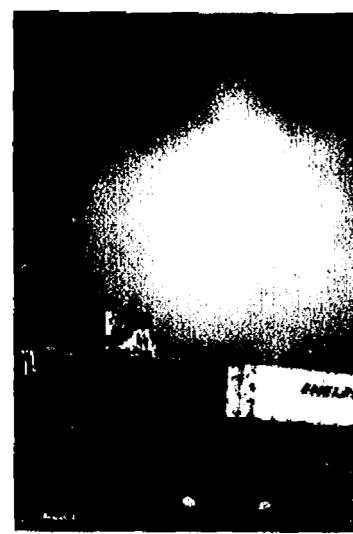


NEWS

2008: Year In Review



With 2008 at an end, the Crawford County Avalanche presents its annual Year In Review. The Year In Review includes article summaries from stories featured in the Crawford County Avalanche during the 2008 calendar year. Article summaries are listed according to the newspaper edition date in which the story appeared. **11-13A**

Not all economic news is bad, study says

There may be light ahead for Michigan's economy, at least in the long-term, two nonprofit institutions say. Despite the highest unemployment rate in 16 years and a failing auto industry, the 2008 State New Economy Index ranks Michigan's potential for economic success 17th in the nation, up two spots from last year. The index doesn't measure economic performance or how good jobs are, but whether the state has the ability to move forward successfully, said Robert Atkinson, president of one of the study sponsors, the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation (ITIF). **7A**

Power restored to customers

Great Lakes Energy repair crews were expected to restore power by Monday to an estimated 421 customers following Sunday's storm that brought damaging winds accompanied by rain, freezing rain, snow, falling limbs and falling trees. Over 17,840 Great Lakes Energy members were affected by the storm, which includes 17,421 customers whose power was restored Sunday by power line crews who made good restoration efforts despite poor weather and road conditions. **5A**

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75 CENTS

Thursday, January 1, 2009

Conservationists claim victory in five-year Mason Tract legal battle

by Dan Sanderson
Staff Writer

Local conservationists and tourism officials got an early Christmas gift last week when two federal government agencies waved the white flag for a project to drill a gas well near the pristine Mason Tract.

An order to dismiss appeals filed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management was entered in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati on Tuesday, Dec. 23. In addition, Savoy Energy, the Traverse City oil and gas firm that applied for the permit to drill the gas well near the Mason Tract, a stretch of pristine land located on the South Branch of the AuSable River in 2003, was denied a request to intervene in the case.

The victory in the five-year-legal battle comes after U.S. District Court Judge David M. Lawson ruled in July that an environmental assessment done by the U.S. Forest Service for the proposed well was inadequate. Specifically, the judge said the federal agency failed to address impacts the gas well, the noise and the clear cutting of trees would have on wildlife and recreational tourism and failed to explore possible alternatives.

The Anglers of the AuSable, the Sierra Club and Tim Mason, the grandson of George Mason, fought the permit to drill the well in federal court on behalf of anglers, hikers and canoeists.

"Clearly some considered oil and gas drilling more important than the

See CONSERVATIONISTS | 2A

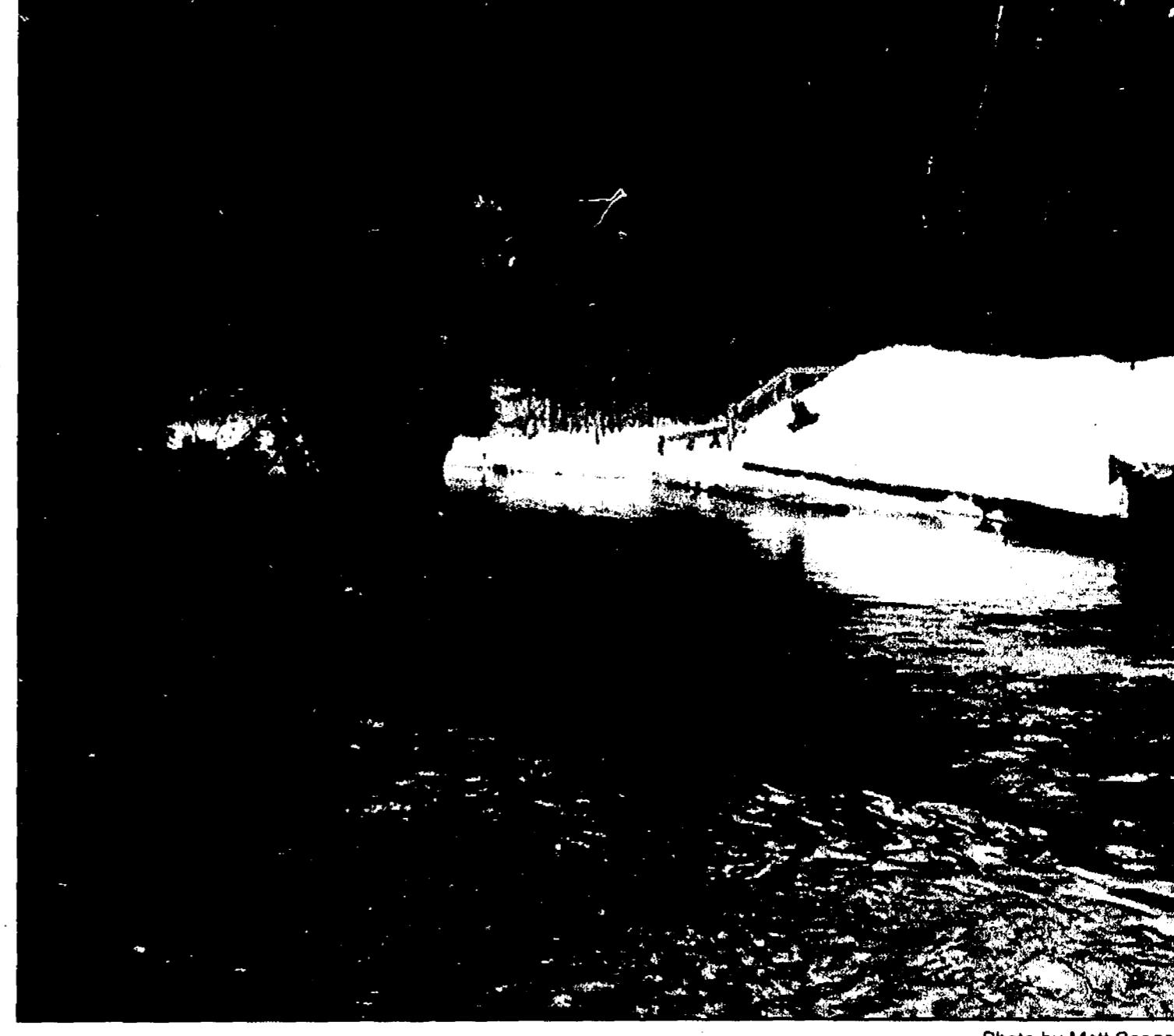


Photo by Matt Seager

Local conservationists and tourism officials got an early Christmas gift last week when two federal government agencies waved the white flag for a project to drill a gas well near the pristine Mason Tract. An order to dismiss appeals filed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management was entered in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati on Tuesday, Dec. 23. In addition, Savoy Energy, the Traverse City oil and gas firm that applied for the permit to drill the gas well near the Mason Tract, a stretch of pristine land located on the South Branch of the AuSable River in 2003, was denied a request to intervene in the case. Above is a picturesque view at the entrance of the Mason Tract, overlooking the river and the snow covered river banks.



The Grayling Senior Center was featured in a recent copy of Michigan Generations, which is published by Michigan's Area Agencies on Aging. The article focused on Michigan's Senior Centers around the state and how they are choosing innovative ways to meet the needs of the changing senior market. Above is a picture of Beatrice Sampson and her dog Sasha on the Crawford County Commission on Aging's float during Grayling's 2007 Fourth of July parade. The picture was one of four photographs, displaying the services and activities offered at the Grayling Senior Center, which was used in the Michigan Generations article.

Grayling Senior Center highlighted

by Dan Sanderson
Staff Writer

The Crawford County Commission on Aging (COA) was spotlighted on two fronts at the state level.

First, Alice Snyder, the director of the Crawford County Commission on Aging, was recently appointed to the State Advisory Council on Aging. The 40-member board studies aging issues and recommends policies

to the Commission on Services to the Aging. The commission, which was appointed by Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm, advises the governor and legislature on the coordination and administration of state programs, changes in federal and state programs and the nature and magnitude of aging priorities. The commission also reviews and approves grants made available by the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging and participates in the plan for

state budgets for aging services.

The Grayling Senior Center was also featured in a recent copy of Michigan Generations, which is published by Michigan's Area Agencies on Aging. The article focuses on Michigan's Senior Centers around the state and how they are choosing innovative ways to meet the needs of the changing senior market.

The State Advisory Council on Aging See GRAYLING | 3A

Theme park developers face Feb. 5 financing deadline

by Dan Sanderson
Staff Writer

Developers for a huge theme park planned south of Grayling have just over a month to prove to the state they have the entire \$161 million to pull off the project.

As of New Year's Day, Axiom Entertainment, which wants to build the Mainstreet America Inc. theme park on the property east of I-75 and north of Four Mile Road, has 36 days to secure financing for the project.

In August, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Rebecca Humphries approved a memorandum which established sale requirements for the 1,800 acres of state land for the theme park. The Feb. 5 deadline for the deal is quickly approaching.

Dave Freed, chief of land and facilities for the DNR, said state officials have received no phone calls, inquirers or correspondence from the developers over the last four months.

Freed speculates that the lack of communication is due to the international wide credit crunch.

"I'm sure it's difficult to gain financing right now and I suspect that's why we haven't heard from them," Freed said.

While the federal government has been bailing out the Big Three Auto Companies and financial institutions with loans in recent weeks, Freed said Humphries has no plan to extend the deadline if finances for the theme park are not in the bank.

"She was pretty clear when she laid out the time frame, and if the financing is not in place, we will be finished with the project at that point," Freed said.

See THEME PARK | 7A

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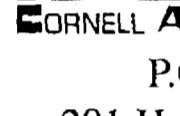
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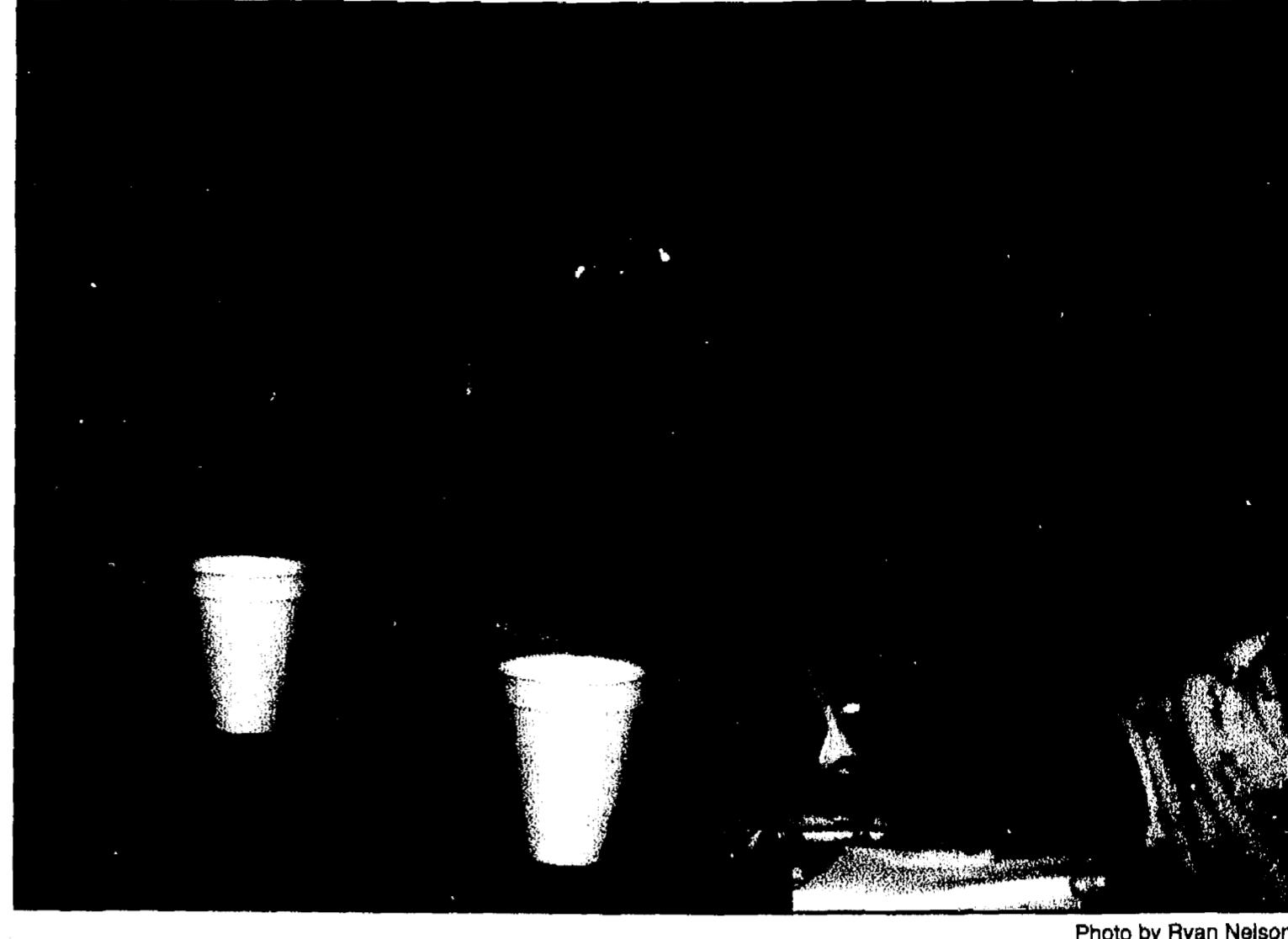


Photo by Ryan Nelson

Grayling resident Lillian Clough (center) celebrated her 100th birthday last Saturday. She is pictured here with her great-granddaughters Ashley Medler (left) and Liz Nelson (right). She has three living children, Jeannette Kitchen, Barbara Verlinde and Kerrigan Clough. Much of her family still lives in the Grayling area.

Conservationists claim victory in five-year Mason Tract legal battle

Continued from 1A
solitude required by hunters, anglers and hikers in this spectacular area," said Marvin Roberson, a forest ecologist for the Sierra Club. "Given the importance of this place to the people of the State of Michigan, we applaud this decision to abandon the appeal."

The Mason Tract was established in 1955, when auto executive George

Mason bequeathed 1,500 acres of land with 11 miles fronting the South Branch of the AuSable River to the State of Michigan. Mason's gift was under the condition that the land be maintained in its pristine nature. Over the years, the Mason Tract has grown to cover 4,500 acres of state land and has become a recreational haven for hunters, trout anglers, hikers and cross-country skiers. The Mason Chapel, a shrine built in Mason's honor, has been the site of several weddings and a place to enjoy some serenity overlooking the river.

Tim Mason, who represented the Mason heirs in the lawsuit, said the recent development in the lawsuit will allow his grandfather's vision to carry on and provides people an opportunity to enjoy the quiet solitude that he found so therapeutic and relaxing.

"This unique gift that he left to the people of Michigan and this country has provided recreational hikers, skiers, canoeists and dedicated fishermen and sportsmen an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors in ways that are rare and hard to find these days," Tim Mason said. "On behalf of our grandfather and the rest of the Mason family, we are grateful for the efforts of the Sierra Club, the Anglers of the AuSable and all of the volunteers that made this happen."

Ilene Geiss-Wilson, executive director of the Grayling Visitors Bureau,

echoed Mason's sentiments regarding volunteers educating government officials about the impacts and hazards of the drilling plan.

"We have opposed the drilling all along, since the Mason Tract is such a pristine piece of land, so we're delighted with the decision," Geiss-Wilson said.

Although the Mason Tract is state land, the federal government owns rights to gas and minerals beneath it and leased production rights to Savoy Energy. The company proposed to build a drilling platform in a portion of the old growth forest of the Huron-Manistee

Ken Arbogast, spokesperson for the Huron-Manistee Forest, said he was under the impression that the Department of the Interior, Savoy Energy and oil and gas lobbyists could appeal the ruling or file an alternative permit request to drill. The Department of Interior is the federal agency that oversees the Bureau of Land Management and Minerals Management Service.

"Depending on the outcome of that discussion with Savoy Energy, we will see if there is still interest in pursuing the permit," Arbogast said.

Gates said Savoy Energy and government officials would likely achieve the same results even if they do a more comprehensive environmental impact assessment.

"The study is going to tell them what we already know, that this well has a tremendous impact on the recreational resources of the South Branch and the whole area," Gates said.

Mark Stozer, field manager for the Bureau of Land Management in Milwaukee, said the agency's decision to drop the appeal is final.

"What the U.S. Department of Justice says in a court of law is where we stand," Stozer said.

Stozer, however, said officials would have to entertain an alternative permit if the proper documents are submitted to the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

"They still have a lease out there and this case revolved around one application to drill, so I'm not sure where we will go from here," Stozer said.

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Grayling Senior Center highlighted

Continued from 1A

Aging has focused on senior centers for the last two years with the key points of identifying the various offerings found at senior centers and identifying variable participation by adults.

The magazine feature and the state appointment come as the COA is exploring relocating to the Grayling Fish Hatchery in a joint venture with the Grayling Fish Hatchery Steering Committee. The COA board is also studying the option of building a new senior center at two different sites in the community.

Though most senior centers began as basic congregate meal sites with perhaps a pre-lunch game of cards thrown in, senior centers have been adding services, classes and activities to reflect the changing needs of the senior population.

Currently, senior centers look more like health clubs or community centers rather than senior gathering places. And with the emerging baby boomer population, senior centers are sprucing up, adding on and rebranding themselves to appeal to the distinct taste of the boomers.

"Senior centers are no longer places where you just come to play cards and eat," Snyder said. "They are places where you get assistance with activities, daily living issues or legal help. For example, we have funding to provide housekeeping services, assistance with personal care and respite care for caregivers. We provide assistance with Medicare and Medicaid in the form of counseling, enrollment and education. For other legal issues, we refer seniors to the appropriate source based on their issues. Centers have really become the place where seniors can go to get assistance."

The Grayling Senior Center brought in the Nintendo Wii game system, which has become popular at senior centers across the country since it offers a form of gentle, low impact exercise and is a lot of fun.

The virtual fun is provided through a partnership with Michigan State University's Teen Connections program.

Nancy Davis, executive director of the Branch County Commission on Aging, said cards and bingo remain popular interests with seniors, who have also become active in exercise classes, healthy cooking and eating classes and balance and Tai Chi classes.

"Our older seniors are

definitely not getting pushed aside," said Davis. "They love the variety."

Senior centers across the state are also striving to work hand-in-hand with other organizations and transportation entities as they are forced to tighten their belts due to budget issues.

"Senior centers are not bound by four walls anymore," said Amy Smyth, an advocacy specialist for the Area on Aging in Southfield. "Their programs might take place on trips, a local fitness facility or at a nearby library. Partnership is the name of the game right now."

The Grayling Senior Center has also offered the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren classes, and has held a conference aimed at helping relatives that are raising younger relatives.

Hillsdale County Senior Services Center, which built a new senior center in 2002, is already in an expansion mode. Along with exercise rooms and computer labs, the center is adding an on-site short-term respite care facility which will take care of seniors around the clock for

would deplete an individual's retirement funds more quickly. And studies show that a person who remains at home for as long as possible is both happier and maintains good health longer."

The Recovery Council, a group formed by the Michigan Department of Community Health, is part of a State Advisory Council on Aging initiative to reduce stigma and support recovery for mental health consumers. Part of the education includes the Stigma Busters project developed through the Northern Lakes Community Mental Health, which has an office in Grayling. The projects include storyboards with pictures and text to show an individual's path to recovery. Traditional attendees at some senior centers have also shunned the frail elderly with health problems coming from care facilities, while baby boomers have broader interests, seek more social activities and are less dependent on services.

Senior centers have been urged to provide welcoming contracts at their facilities to make new seniors feel comfortable. In addition, seniors are encouraged to advocate for one another. At the St. Patrick Senior Center in Detroit, seniors partner with each other to tackle health care issues. An advocate arranges transportation and participates in the entire appointment to make sure the senior understands what the doctor is saying and that all the senior's issues are being addressed. The advocate will then make sure the senior fills his or her prescription and follows the doctor's recommendations.

"We identified a growing need for short-term respite of caregivers so that caregivers can remain healthy and able to care for their more frail loved ones," said Terry Vear, executive director for the Hillsdale County Senior Services Center. "From a fiscal standpoint, providing respite services costs substantially less than placing a loved one in a skilled nursing facility that

the center is required to have a senior volunteer - administration, finance, the medical clinic, maintenance and the kitchen. It helps to empower the seniors and give them a way to contribute."

Mark Jenks, director of the Delphi Township's Parks and Recreation Department, which runs the Sam Corey Senior Citizens Center, said Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards were used to make their senior center, which will open in 2009, as environmentally friendly as possible. The COA is considering using the same building guidelines for its senior center upgrade.

"Our seniors are getting a kick out of that and I think it will be a draw for boomers as well," Jenks said.

The COA, through a partnership with MSU Extension, has participated in the Project Fresh program, providing vouchers to seniors to purchase fresh produce from farm markets and roadside stands.

Along with the regular congregate meals at the St. Joseph County Senior Center, their seniors are provided certificates for meals at local restaurants.

"They choose what kind of food they want to eat and when to eat it," said Lynn Coursey, executive director of the St. Joseph County Commission on Aging. "It really fits in more with today's healthy lifestyle."

Mike Lange, a Crawford County Commissioner who sits on the COA board, said Snyder's state appointment and the magazine feature bode well for the community and shows senior centers are facing the same issues and needs.

"Obviously, Alice is highly regarded in her peer group and that's a good thing for Grayling and the Commission on Aging," Lange said. "We're excited and are moving forward."

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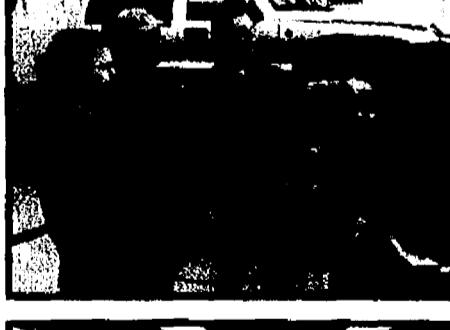
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Issues and Opinions



Almanack

by Richard Milliman

For the New Year, here are some suggested resolutions

(COLUMNIST'S NOTE:
The following column has
appeared at the beginning
of a New Year intermittently
during the past several
years, and its advice and
suggestions still are pertinent
in the troubled days
ahead.)

IT'S TIME FOR Auld
Lang Syne again, which
means it's also time for res-
olutions and personal
renewal for the New Year
2009.

In an effort to be helpful,
here's a holiday recipe that
everyone should consider
using frequently during the
coming New Year:

"Take four cups of love ...
two cups of loyalty ... three
cups of understanding and
forgiveness ... one cup of
friendship and another cup
of kindness ... five spoons of
hope ... two spoons of ten-
derness ... four quarts of

faith ... one barrel of laugh-
ter.

"Take love and loyalty,
mix thoroughly with faith.

"Blend with tenderness
and kindness.

"Stir with understanding,
forgiveness and friendship.

"Sprinkle abundantly with
laughter.

"Bake with sunshine and
hope.

"Serve daily, with gener-
ous helpings."

If each of us would try
this recipe once whenever
possible during the coming
year, this would be a much
better world ... and it would
be more fun to live in it.

I don't remember where I
first came across this recipe
for happiness and a good
life, but wisdom can be
found in many places, and if
you think this is good
advice, please follow it.

* * *

MORE RESOLUTIONS

— Here's another good set of
resolutions I read on a
placemat at a forgotten
restaurant several years ago.

I recommend the ideas, if

not the restaurant, to
Almanack readers. Again,

wisdom can be found in

many places.

Take time to live.

star.

Take time to live.

* * *

THERE'S MORE — At
the risk of overkill, here's
another set of possible res-
olutions for the New Year,
offered for your considera-
tion all year around.

These "Ten
Commandments of Human
Relations" came from a
newsletter sent by a small
city chamber of commerce

to its hometown newspaper

many years ago. I don't
know the chamber's source
nor do I remember the town

or the newspaper, but these
are still excellent suggestions.

1. Speak to people. There
is nothing as nice as a cheer-
ful word of greeting.

2. Smile at people. It takes
72 muscles to frown, only
14 to smile.

3. Call people by name.

The sweetest music to any-
one's ears is the sound of
his/her own name.

4. Be friendly and helpful.
If you want friends, you
must be a friend.

5. Be cordial. Speak and
act as if everything you do is
a joy to you.

6. Be genuinely interested
in people. You can like
almost everybody, if you try.

7. Be generous with
praise, cautious with criti-
cism.

8. Be considerate with the
feelings of others. There
usually are three sides to
any controversy — your side,
the other person's, and the
right side.

9. Be eager to lend a help-
ing hand. Often it is appreci-
ated more than you know.

10. Maintain a good sense
of humor, a huge dose of
patience, and a dash of
humility. This combination

will open many doors and
the rewards will be enor-
mous.

* * *

THAT'S ENOUGH
sweetness and light for one
sitting, but there are enough
positive suggestions in the
above items to last a full
year.

If you are one of those
procrastinators who have
not yet developed your new
year's resolutions for the
New Year, please feel free to
adopt any — or all — of the
suggestions listed above as
your own resolutions. There's no extra charge.

To all of you, a prosper-
ous and Happy New Year,
from the Almanack

#

*Richard Milliman is a veter-
an newspaperman, and a
contributing columnist to
several Michigan newspa-
pers.*

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Letters to the Editor

I dare not travel to Crawford County with my pit bull mix

To the editor:

As a visitor to Crawford
County, I believe it has a lot
to offer if you love the out-
doors. The snowmobiling and
cross country skiing are
great and the hiking and
canoeing are world class. I
will, however, not be spending
my tourist dollars in your
county. I dare not travel to Crawford
County with my sweet, affectionate
dog Hope, as she is a pit bull
mix. It seems that if a person
claims to have felt threatened
by a pit bull, or a
bully type dog, that is
enough to have the
Crawford County animal
control officer spirit your
animal away, have it
declared dangerous and
demand that it be put to
sleep.

It doesn't matter that the
animal did not bite, has
never bitten anyone or has
never had a single complaint
in the past. It doesn't matter
if the animal is just an 8
month old puppy when the
complaint was made, it can
be ordered to its death.

Consider the case of
Shelby and Riley. In July,
they followed a man on his
bike as he rode along the
back of the dog owner's
property. Eight month old
Riley began to follow the
biker, so the man stopped,
got off his bike and con-
fronted the dog. Riley was
joined by his 12 month old
pal, Shelby. The man felt

threatened so he pretended
to throw things at them,
squirted water and began to
poker at them with a long
stick. Still, the dogs did
not bite him. They barked.
As soon as the owner
noticed that the dogs had
dug out of their kennel, she
called them and they turned
away from the frightened
biker and went home. The
incident was reported to the
animal control officer that
day (seems the biker must
know her as he rode directly
to her home, right past the
house where the dogs live.)
The owners were issued a
citation because the dogs
were out. The dog kennel
was placed on a concrete
pad so that the dogs would
not be able to get out again.
End of story, right? Not by
a long shot.

Four months and one
week later, the animal
control officer came to the
owner's home and took the
dogs. Shelby and Riley
had been declared dangerous
and were to be euthanized.
Keep in mind the fact
that there had been no other
complaints filed on these
dogs and there was no bite.
The dogs were impounded
and waited three weeks for a
hearing. It seems that if I
accuse a dog in Crawford
County it will automatically
be assumed guilty.
Perhaps that rule only
applies to pit bulls or other
breeds that are on the

Animal Control officer's hit
list. Dog trainer Tracy
Holland examined the dogs
and found no signs of
aggression in them. The
Crawford County shelter
staff have dealt with the
dogs for a month and found
them to be "easy going and
friendly." Neighbors and
family members gave the
dogs good reports. That
meant nothing in court.
Judge Burmeister disregarded
anything except the "vic-
tim's statement." The victim
incidentally could not be
cross examined by the dog
owner's lawyer as he has
since been deployed.

The dog owners are plan-
ning to appeal, but time is

running out for the two
dogs. These people are

spending every penny they

have to defend their dogs.

Merry Christmas. Too bad
they don't own a couple of
yellow labrador retrievers. If
that were the case, none of
this would have happened.
They would not have auto-
matically been considered
threatening and there would
be no case. Chances are real-
ly good that they wouldn't
even be given a citation for
an animal at large if they
owned the right breed of dog
and knew the right people.

Check out the Web site

www.thorswarriors.com to

get all the information on

this case.

Sarah King

St. Clair Shores

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your views are welcome on the
Opinion Page. Letters may be typed
or handwritten, but please double-
space or use every other line and
limit to 500 words.

Every letter must be signed and an
address and telephone number
must be included to be considered
for publication. Letters will not be

published without the author's
name. Telephone numbers are not
published.

All letters are subject to editing

and will be printed as space allows.

Deadline for submission of letters
to the editor is Friday at noon for
consideration for publication in the
following week's paper.

Washington Notes

By Carl Levin, U.S. Senator (D-Michigan)

An economic ditch

There's no doubt now
that the entire nation — not
just Michigan — is in a very
deep economic ditch. Income is down for the
median-income family, and
purchasing power is down even further. We've lost
over 3.5 million manufacturing jobs since January 2001. Unemployment continues to climb, houses are
being foreclosed upon and every Michigan citizen has
seen gas prices skyrocket.

At a time when the federal
government is spending huge sums to bail out large

financial corporations that have contributed to our current economic challenges, we cannot lose track of regular Americans.

Getting people back to work and getting money back into the economy in communities across the country is critical to restore confidence in the economy.

While an economic stimulus package can help in the short and mid-term, the nation also needs a long-term economic plan. That plan should include support for our manufacturers to ensure that American workers are facing foreign competitors on a level playing field and that health care costs and energy costs do not undercut their competitiveness.

Additionally, any comprehensive economic plan must include a return to fiscal responsibility. At the beginning of the decade, the U.S. Treasury had a projected budget surplus of over \$5 billion. But, instead of surpluses, the last eight years have seen record deficits and our national debt is now approaching \$10 trillion. That is money that we must pay off eventually and right now we're leaving it entirely on the backs of our children and grandchildren.

Citizens are facing an economic crisis worse than anything we've experienced in decades. I will keep fighting in Congress for economic stimulus — the sooner the better — and for a comprehensive economic plan to get our nation back on track.

Carl Levin is the senior U.S. Senator from Michigan.

Briefs

Blood drives to be held

The American Red Cross will hold two local blood drives in January. The first one will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 6, at St. Mary's Family Center, 707 Spruce Street, from noon - 5:45 p.m. and is sponsored by the Grayling Community. A blood drive will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 7, at the Grayling American Legion, 106 James Street, from noon - 5:45 p.m. and is sponsored by M.A.T. E.S.

Fly tying class to be held

A beginning fly tying class, sponsored by the Mason-Griffith Founders Chapter of Trout Unlimited, will be offered at the Devereaux Memorial Library. The six-week class will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 6:30 p.m. All fly tying equipment and materials are included in the \$40 class fee. For more information, call 989-390-2814.

Community calendar available online

The Crawford County Avalanche has a community calendar on their new web site. To view area happenings, or to be considered for publication of your event, go to crawfordcountyavalanche.com, click on community and go to the community calendar.

Handbags for River House



Handbags of Hope is a project started in southeast Michigan to give a gift of beauty and empowerment to women. The project receives gently used handbags and fills them with beauty items. The handbags are delivered throughout Michigan to women in shelters. Pictured with two of the project handbags are (from left to right) Carrie Rasmussen, Kriss Goodroe, Jackie Bobcean (project founder) and Marey Jurkovich.

Power restored to customers

Great Lakes Energy repair crews were expected to restore power by Monday to an estimated 421 customers following Sunday's storm that brought damaging winds accompanied by rain, freezing rain, snow, falling limbs and falling trees.

Over 17,840 Great Lakes Energy members were affected by the storm, which includes 17,421 customers whose power was restored Sunday by power line crews who made good restoration efforts despite poor weather and road conditions. Crews began battling the outage at approximately 4 a.m. on Sunday. Power outages were reported in 24 of the 26 counties served by the Great Lakes Energy electrical cooperative.

Hardest hit by the storm were Great Lakes Energy customers in Antrim, Charlevoix, Crawford, Emmet, Kalkaska and Otsego Counties.

Great Lakes Energy crews were assisted by 16 contracted line crews in their storm repair efforts.

Great Lakes Energy members are reminded to stay away from downed power lines for their safety and protection.

GMS teachers give to the Giving Tree



Above (from left to right) Ellen Thompson and Brenda Tuskan gather and deliver the collected gifts to the Commission on Aging.

For the tenth year, teachers at the Grayling Middle School have given to the Commission on Aging's Giving Tree.

Each year, the teachers of GMS provide senior citizens of Crawford County with a variety of gifts identified as needed by the Commission on Aging. The identified items are written on an ornament shaped gift tag and placed on a tree in the teacher's

IRS reminds taxpayers to take advantage of recent tax changes

With little more than a week left in 2008, the Internal Revenue Service wants to remind taxpayers to be aware of recent tax changes as well as some recently reinstated tax deductions.

"A simple review of your current tax situation may result in a bigger refund or less taxes to be paid come tax time," said IRS Spokesperson Luis D. Garcia.

The Internal Revenue Service offers these tax tips for you to consider:

First-Time Homebuyers Tax Credit - Taxpayers who purchase a primary home between April 9, 2008, and June 30, 2009, can apply for this credit. The credit equals 10 percent of the purchase price of the home up to a maximum of \$7,500. The credit must be paid back in equal payments over 15 years. First-time homebuyers are those who have not owned a home in the three years prior to a purchase.

Real Estate Tax Deduction - There is an additional standard deduction for those who don't or can't itemize their tax deductions, but pay real estate taxes. The additional deduction amount is equal to the amount of real estate taxes paid up to \$500 for single filers or \$1,000 for joint filers. This deduction is available for tax years 2008 and 2009.

Tuition and Fees Deduction - Taxpayers may be able to deduct qualified tuition and required enrollment fees up to \$4,000 for themselves, their spouse, or their dependent even if they don't itemize. However, a taxpayer cannot take both the tuition and fees deduction and education credits (Hope and Lifetime

lounge. The gift tags are collected by staff members who purchase or make the items. They place the gift wrapped items under the tree and then they are delivered to the Commission on Aging who present them to 68 seniors in need. "As teachers, we have dedicated much of our lives to giving to youth. This is one way to spread our fortunate position even further."

Raffle Winners

Grayling Youth Booster Club

The 50/50 raffle winners for Dec. 28 of \$25 each; LD Norman, Wilma Case and Bill and Pat Kennedy.

Grayling Lions Club

The winner of the Grayling Lions Club Lucky 13 raffle was Nicole Ferguson.

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The Bible Speaks

God's Wonderful Plan

As Romans 8:29 further explains God's purpose in our salvation to conform us to the image of Jesus Christ. So in Romans 8:29,30 God also reveals His 5-step eternal plan for our salvation. "29For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

First, God foreknew us intimately in His wisdom, love, and grace. The Greek word translated "foreknow" in Romans 8:29 is translated "foreordained" in 1 Peter 1:20 where Jesus Christ was also predetermined to be our savior. "20Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."

Second, God predestinated us to be conformed to the image of His Son. This included being predestinated unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ in Ephesians 1:5. It also included being

predestinated to an eternal inheritance in Ephesians 1:11. Or as Ephesians 1:4 says, "4According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."

Third, God called us into the grace of Christ. (Galatians 1:6,15). "9Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." (2 Timothy 1:9). God has "...called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9). As 1 Thessalonians 2:12 instructs us: "12That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory."

Fourth, God justified us "...freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:24). "9Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." (Romans 5:9). "21For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

(2 Corinthians 5:21). "28Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." (Romans 3:28). "1Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1).

Fifth, God has assured us that all those He foreknew, predestinated, called, and justified can know they will be glorified at the return of Jesus Christ; "...and whom he justified, them he also glorified." "2Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:2). "14Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Thessalonians 2:14).

"10But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you." (1 Peter 5:10). Pastor "B"

The Bible Speaks is a paid advertisement and does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Crawford County Avalanche.

Obituaries

Michael Steiger

Michael Steiger, 56, of Grayling, passed away on December 24, 2008.

He was born in Holland, on February 28, 1952, to George and Charlot (Barber) Mahoney.

He married Peggy on September 5, 2002, in Ludington.

He is survived by his mother, Charlot Mahoney of Pontiac; wife, Peggy; daughters: Shawwna LaFond of Calif., Bonnie (John) McLeod of Roscommon; Ramanda (Dale) Burch of Grayling; son, Ryan (Jenny) Steiger of Birch Run; step-sons: Corey Rice of Grayling, Jeremy (Rhiannon) Rice of Roscommon, David (Bonnie Romain) Rice of Grayling; 13 grandchildren; brother, James (Peggy) Steiger of Grayling; and special aunt, Shirley Ladd of Pontiac.

He was preceded in death by his father; brother, Bob; and sister, Maryann.

A funeral service was held on December 29 with Pastor Patty Petrie officiating.

Condolences may be sent to www.sorenson-lockwood.com.

Arrangements made by Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home.

Althea I. Kellogg

Althea Irene Kellogg, 81, of Lovells, passed away on December 28, 2008.

She was born in Pinconning, on August 7, 1927, to the late George and Ruth (Fox) Bodrie.

She married Gerald Kellogg on April 15, 1978, in Bridgeport.

She is survived by her husband, Gerald Kellogg; daughter: Colette (Dennis) Wisniewski of Bay City; sons, Michael Bond of Lovells and Scott Grombik of Freeland; step-daughters: Debra (Leroy) Pepke of Grand Rapids, Kathy (James) Boswell of Ky., Carol Barajas of Lovells, Jeanette (Steve) Birk of Wyo.; step-son, Kenneth (Thelma Wells) Kellogg of Lovells; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother; a son, Richard Bond; and step-daughter Dyanne Fauver.

A funeral service was held at the Lovells Chapel on December 30 with Pastor Gary Hopp officiating.

Condolences may be sent to www.sorenson-lockwood.com.

Arrangements made by Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home.

Shirley A. Linendoll

Shirley A. Linendoll, 74, of Grayling, passed away on December 24, 2008.

She was born in Melvindale, on August 20, 1934, to the late Harry H. and Esther L. (Gehringer) Hoerl.

She was the wife of John Linendoll and they were married in 1960 in Grayling.

She was survived by her husband, John; daughter: Sheri (Mike) Aumann of Minn.; son, Mitch Linendoll of Grayling; grandchildren: Brandon, Blaine and Chelsea; and sister: Joyce (Jim) Kolka of Grayling.

A funeral service was held at Mt. Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church on December 29 with Pastor Steven Thiel officiating.

Condolences may be sent to www.sorenson-lockwood.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mt. Hope Lutheran Church.

Arrangements made by Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home.

Jeffery T. Hale

Jeffery Todd Hale, 30, of Bradenton, Fla., passed away unexpectedly on December 27, 2008.

He was born to the late Robert (Bob) Hale and Jackie Hale Douglas on July 30, 1978, in Grayling.

He was raised in Grayling and enjoyed many of the activities this area has to offer including downhill skiing and canoe racing on the AuSable River.

He moved to Bradenton, Fla., several years ago and enjoyed hanging out with his girlfriend and other friends, expressing himself through writing music and playing music with his band.

He is survived by mother, Jackie Hale (Charles) Douglas of Bradenton, Fla., grandparents, Dorothy and Burt Taylor of Manistique; siblings: Scott (Stacy) Hale of Hartland; Darelene (Jeff) Bennett of Grayling, Angel (Pete) Oppermann of Gaylord; aunts, uncles and cousins from the Grayling areas.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert (Bob) Hale; grandmother, Betty Hale; and grandfather, Ernest Hale, all of Grayling.

The family will be holding a private remembrance in Florida in honor of their loved one.

Card of Thanks

The recent loss of our wife, friend, mother, daughter, sister and grandmother, Sherry A. Bryant, reminds us she was our constant strength in life and she remains so even in death.

Thank you to the Burpee family for the lovely dinner, to Mt. Hope Church for the use of the hall, to Jerry and Sue Love for the wonderful food preparations and encouragement and for the beautiful flowers, cards, donations and for the many shoulders we've leaned on.

A special thank you to Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home staff, your warmth was very much appreciated.

The Bryant family

Range Firing

The Range 40 Complex, Air to Ground, located north of County Rd. 612, east of Guthrie Lake, south of Old State Rd. 618, and west of County Rd. F97 (Twin Bridge Rd.), Jan. 8 and 10-14.

Heavy weapons range firing is scheduled from sunrise until three hours after sunset. Due to mobilizations or critical training requirements, the Post Commander may authorize mission-firing requirements beyond this time. This firing schedule is subject to change without notice to the public.

Contact the Grayling Department of Natural Resources for the areas closed for hunting within the boundaries of the installation. Grayling DNR telephone number is 989-348-6371. For further information, call 989-344-6100.

Condolences may be sent to www.sorenson-lockwood.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mt. Hope Lutheran Church.

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Condol

Students have slime time at Kirtland



Students in Marc Winton and Dawn Feldhauser's fourth grade classrooms recently went to Kirtland Community College, where the youngsters rotated through several science centers dealing with the three states of matter: solids, liquids and gases. Students loved the hands-on approach to learning and got to bring home chalk, balloons and slime. The teachers felt it was a great opportunity to let the kids see a higher level learning institution, since many of our Grayling students start their college careers at Kirtland. Above, from left to right, Benjamin Layle, Ashley Bancroft, Jazlyn Jamison, Samantha DeVriendt and Parker Knepp stand at the chemistry table as a helper works over their shoulders.

Not all economic news is bad, study says

by Nico Rubello
Capital News Service

There may be light ahead for Michigan's economy, at least in the long-term, two nonprofit institutions say.

Despite the highest unemployment rate in 16 years and a failing auto industry, the 2008 State New Economy Index ranks Michigan's potential for economic success 17th in the nation, up two spots from last year.

The index doesn't measure economic performance or how good jobs are, but whether the state has the ability to move forward successfully, said Robert Atkinson, president of one of the study sponsors, the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation (ITIF).

"We know what the building blocks of success are," he said. "This index is a measure of how strong those building blocks are for each state. If you don't have those building blocks, it's going to be a lot harder to be successful."

Washington, D.C.-based

ITIF and Kansas City, Mo.-based Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation produced the report to gauge states' progress toward a more global, knowledge-based economy.

"The index suggested there are some assets in Michigan that could be taken advantage of going forward in the future," Atkinson said.

For example, the state ranks eighth in education levels among immigrants, he said. That's considered good for the economy because immigrants create more fast-growing, high-wage companies than other groups.

Michigan also ranks No. 1 in the e-government category, he said.

"For example, the ability of citizens to go online and register a business or conduct business with the government is good," he said.

And the state ranks 11th in foreign direct investment, Atkinson added.

"For instance, Toyota is opening up a research and development facility in Michigan," he said.

According to Kauffman

Foundation economist Tim Kane, the state has a strong research and development industry.

Kane said the state ranked high in its supply of human capital but low in entrepreneurship. He added he is worried Michigan suffers from a "brain drain" because it's losing entrepreneurs to other states.

Education levels of the Michigan workforce are high, but it doesn't translate to a lot of risk-taking in small businesses," he said.

Michigan State University economist Paul Menchik said the weak economy means people are more unwilling to invest in business ventures.

Michigan's manufacturing industry is less productive than the national average, according to the report.

"There's been a general reduction in the role of manufacturing" in the state, Menchik added. "Michigan is declining in manufacturing, just the way the United States has. I don't see we're better or worse than any other state."

Michigan's manufacturing industry is less productive than the national average, according to the report.

As some manufacturing companies phase out of Monroe County, the county's Industrial Development Corp. has been able to attract about 17 research and development companies from northwest Ohio, said its president, Bill Morris.

"We have been able to create unique expansion of about 120 jobs, but it has been slow," he said.

Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, said the state's strongest economic investments were in expanding its tourism industry, providing incentives for the film industry and redeveloping downtown areas.

And Bridget Beckman, public relations officer for the Michigan Economic Development Corp., said, "We're working hard to leverage Michigan's tremendous capacity for innovation to develop those high tech sectors, like alternative energy and the life sciences, that will stabilize and grow our economy."

The study ranks Massachusetts first and Mississippi last.

Theme park developers face Feb. 5 financing deadline

Continued from 1A

Gail Gilliland, director of the Crawford County Economic Development Partnership, remains more hopeful on the theme park project. She said she is in constant contact with Patrick Crosson, the project manager for Axiom Entertainment, and that hasn't changed since the public was made aware of the project in June 2007.

"The project is still moving forward and he is still working on things," Gilliland said.

Pete Kocefas, the owner of

Sledheads of Frederic and a local real estate broker, said the local economy needs a shot in the arm, but prospects of the theme park developers, or any other business owners seeking to develop the property, look slim at this point.

"There's really nobody standing in line to purchase the property," Kocefas said.

Kocefas said he considers building a theme park in the Grayling area as a "silly idea."

"Crawford County needs something, but they don't need that," Kocefas said.

According to Kocefas

Marvin Roberson, a forest ecologist for the Sierra Club, was even more critical of the project.

"The guy never had the financing, he never had the chance to get financing for a theme park that requires people to spend their discretionary income for it to be successful," Roberson said. "This is a flat out impossibility even if he had a good idea for a theme park."

Developers are proposing that the park would include roller coasters, a race track, a water park, the world's tallest Christmas tree and Ferris wheel, a World War II aircraft carrier and an area where Christmas is celebrated all year long. They said it would create 2,000 jobs, 700 of which would be full-time positions, and would have an annual payroll of \$25 million.

The last action taken on the theme park by the DNR and the developers occurred in September, when about 260 acres of land from the initial purchase agreement was trimmed from the request.

Upon review, Freed said

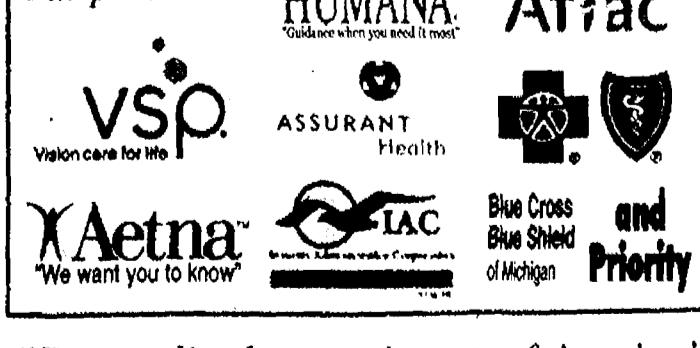
that property planned for industrial development and other unspecified development was removed from the purchase request. Freed said that state officials did not want to risk having the property sold to a third party developer and then have an enterprise unrelated to the theme park near the property.

Susan Haddad, the owner of a Rochester based public relations firm representing Mainstreet America Inc, said developers are waiting to wrap up a few things as they go through the holidays and are dealing with the current economic climate while they try to tie project details together.

"We are cautiously optimistic as we always have been," Haddad said.

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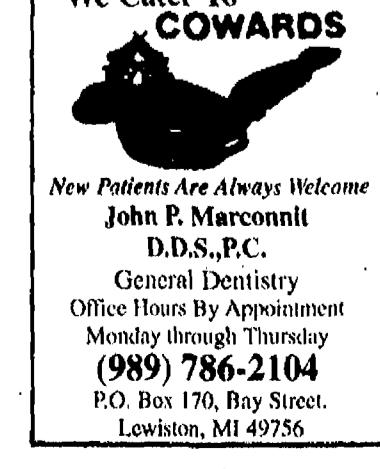
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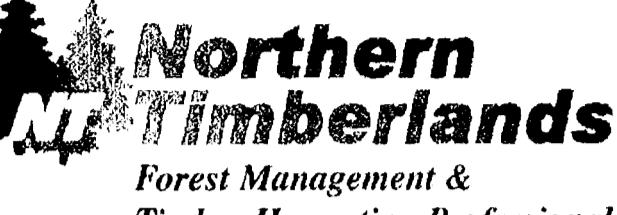
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To reserve seats or request information concerning special event trips call Julee @ 348-8215

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Service schedules may be modified to meet increased demand during special community events. Such as the Milltown Festival.

To request information concerning expanded services call Richard @ 348-4101



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Senior Citizen News

Join us for a meal either at noon or 5 p.m. weekdays, except Friday, when there is no evening meal. Soup or salad bar served prior to the meal Monday through Thursday.

This week's menu (lunch/dinner) and activities:

Friday, Jan. 2 - Closed. Monday, Jan. 5 - Lunch - scalloped potatoes with ham, peas, peaches and an apple. Dinner - beef goulash, corn, cauliflower and mixed fruit. 1 p.m. Bridge, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. hearing clinic.

Tuesday, Jan. 6 - Lunch - oven fried chicken, Riviera blend vegetables, O'Brien potatoes and grapes. Dinner - Swiss steak, boiled potatoes, green beans and pears. 10 a.m. Tone and Tubes and Bible Study, 1 p.m. Euchre, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. blood pressure/sugar checks.

Wednesday, Jan. 7 - Lunch - macaroni and cheese, mixed vegetables, Brussels sprouts and mandarin oranges. Dinner - chicken stir-fry with rice, asparagus, oranges and grapefruit and blueberry crisp. 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Commodities at St. Mary's, 10 a.m. line dancing, 1 p.m. pool league, 5:30 p.m. Price is Right game show.

Thursday, Jan. 8 - Lunch - chicken tenders, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn and a banana. Dinner - applejack pork, sweet potatoes, peas and an orange. 10 a.m. craft class, 12:30 p.m. Cops and Seniors Initiative Meeting, 2 p.m. UNO Attack, 3:30 p.m. Wii Bowling.

The Crawford County Commission on Aging's Senior Center is located at 308 Lawndale, behind Burger King in Grayling. Walk-ins are welcome.

Hinkle, Collen wed



Meghan Hinkle and Todd Collen

Meghan Marie Hinkle and Todd Michael Collen were united in marriage on October 25.

Meghan is the daughter of Mary Kay Hinkle and Fred and Becky Hinkle.

Todd is the son of George and Carolyn Collen.

Melissa Reinhardt, sister

of the bride, was the matron of honor.

Dale Bindschatel, cousin of the groom, served as best man.

The ceremony was performed by Reverend Kathy Madsen. Following the ceremony, a dinner reception was held at the Camp Grayling Officers Club.

Library News

Kids are invited to "Snowy Play on The Snowy Day" at the Devereaux Memorial Library on Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 3:30 p.m. There will be snow stories, cool crafts and frozen treats. To sign up or for more information, contact Jane at 348-9214.

Cyber Teen Revolution

is back with our premier "Teen Movie Night" on Friday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m. at the Devereaux Memorial Library. It will be a newly released movie on the big screen, complete with popcorn. This program is for teens ages 12-18 and is free. Those interested must sign up or call the library at 348-9214.

Births

Pamela and David LaGattuta, announce the birth of their daughter, Sophia Evelyn, born at Mercy Hospital on December 19, 2008, weighing 7 lbs., 11 ozs., and measuring 19 1/2 inches in length.

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Sheriff's Report

Crawford County Sheriff Kirk Wakefield reports his office handled the following 100 complaints the week of Dec. 22 - Dec. 28.

One EMS response, one natural death, 23 general non-criminal complaints, eight false alarm activations, one assault/intimidation/stalking, two assault and batteries/simple assaults, two larcenies,



one damage to property, one sex offense/other, six public peace/disorderlies, five health and safeties, one miscellaneous criminal offense, 24 traffic accidents, one accident-non-traffic, one traffic safety public appearance, one hazardous condition, five inspections/investigations-other, four family troubles-domestic, nine suspicious situations, one driving violation/driving while license suspended and one driving on revoked/suspended license.

Sheriff Wakefield asks, "Do you know where your children are? Please remember, our children are our future."

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Sports

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Players return to GHS for alumni game



Four teams competed in the 1st Annual Grayling Men's Basketball Alumni Game, which took place on Saturday, Dec. 20, at Grayling High School. In the consolation championship, Team Nate Hinkle defeated Team Roy Czapek. In the championship game, Team Shane Hinkle, which consisted of players from the 1995 squad at GHS, defeated Team Gibson Tobin (the 2005 team), 69-61. Shane Hinkle was voted MVP of the tourney. Parents and friends of the alumni also attended the game. "It was a great day of basketball and gave our guys an opportunity to share good times together," said coaches Rich Moffit and Butch Hayes. Plans are in the works for next year's tournament, Moffit said.

Kirtland Basketball

Women's Team - For the second consecutive weekend, the Kirtland Community College women's basketball team brought home a first-place trophy.

The Firebirds won the Promo-Specialties Jayhawk Classic women's basketball tournament by beating the tournament's host, Jamestown Community College, 82-73, on Saturday, Dec. 6. This follows Kirtland's championship effort at the Muskegon Community College Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 28 and 29.

"That's two in a row," said Coach Tom Ritter. "This was a good tournament for us, too. We played very well."

The Firebirds, who held a 43-34 lead at the break, used a pressure defense to trigger their offense on Saturday. Guard Kassi McConnell (Clare) stole the show - literally - by turning a team-best 13 steals into a season-high 29 points. The freshman cager for Kirtland also hand-

ed out four assists and had one rebound in the title win over the host Jayhawks.

"That's where most of her points came from," Ritter said of McConnell's thievery. "She'd steal the ball and go to the hole."

"We pressed all but 10 minutes of the first half. It made our game," he added. "Our defense was awesome. We pressed them all over the place."

McConnell had plenty of support. Sophomore guard Natasha Dewald (AuGres-Sims) was one of five Kirtland hoopsters to score in double digits, tallying 13 points, four assists, three steals and one rebound.

"As a team, we had six players in double figures in the title game at Muskegon. Saturday, we had five players in double figures against the Jayhawks," Ritter said. "Our scoring is coming from everybody. Everybody is involved in the game."

Other players contributing for Kirtland in Saturday's

championship game included: Brooke Robinson (Standish-Sterling Central), 10 points, 9 rebounds, 5 steals, 1 assist; Kaylon Leslie (Whittemore-Prescott), 10 points, 4 assists, 3 rebounds, 2 steals; Whitney Bonham (Evart), 10 points, 7 rebounds, 3 steals, 1 assist; Jo'ell Cruse (Inland Lakes/Indian River), 7 points, 1 rebound, 1 steal; Joyana Englehart (Atlanta), 3 points, 1 rebound.

* * *

Kirtland posted its third consecutive win after suffering two straight losses, topping Columbus State Community College, 74-63, on Friday, Dec. 5, in a first-round matchup of the Jayhawk Classic basketball tournament.

"We had to work for this one," said Ritter. "We tried to give it away."

The Firebirds led by as many as 17 points in the first half, before heading to the locker room at intermission with just a six-point advan-

tage, 35-29. Kirtland again built a double-digit bulge in the second half. But Columbus State hacked that down to just one, with the Firebirds holding off the Cougars by converting late at the free-throw line.

"We hit our foul shots," Ritter said, after his squad hit 18 of 22 at the line.

Leslie led the charge for Kirtland with 19 points, 13 rebounds, and two steals. Her performance included a 7 for 9 night at the charity stripe.

Bonham and Dewald chipped in 13 and 11 points, respectively, in the win. Bonham also ripped down a team-best 15 boards and had one assist, while Dewald added two boards, two assists, and two steals.

Other players contributing for Kirtland included: McConnell, 11 points, 10 assists, 4 boards, 2 steals; Robinson, 10 points, 13 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals; Cruse, 7 points, 9 rebounds, 1 steal; Englehart, 3 points, 1 board, 1 assist.



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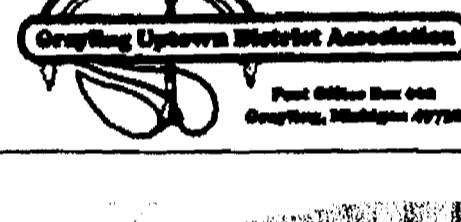
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YEAR IN REVIEW

Happy New Year!

With 2008 at an end, the *Crawford County Avalanche* presents its annual Year In Review.

The Year In Review includes article summaries from stories featured in the *Crawford County Avalanche* during the 2008 calendar year. Article summaries are listed according to the newspaper edi-

tion date in which the story appeared.

As cited in this year's Year In Review, the *Crawford County Avalanche* covered a variety of issues and events in the past 12 months, including the Grayling Charter Township Board's lawsuit against the City of Grayling with regard to administration of the fire department, the drug-related arrest of a former

Crawford County Sheriff's Department

deputy and DARE officer, the April 24 wildfire that destroyed more than 1,300 acres, the Mainstreet America theme park proposal, a proposed ORV ordinance for Crawford County, the court case involving the county and the 46th Circuit Trial Court, the record-setting 61st AuSable River Canoe Marathon, Grayling High

School's winter, spring and fall sports, and more.

The 2008 Year In Review will be published in two parts. This week's *Crawford County Avalanche* includes the months of January through June.

The months of July through December will be featured in next week's *Crawford County Avalanche*.

JANUARY

| 3 |

Ashley Branch, age 9 of Grayling, had 10 inches of her hair cut off by Salon Rue owner Shawn Carlson for a donation to Locks of Love, a nonprofit organization which collects donations of hair for the purpose of making wigs for children suffering from cancer and other diseases that cause them to lose their hair.

Hanson Hills got an early start on the ski season through making a solid base of snow and cooperative weather, marking the first time in a few years that weather conditions permitted opening the ski hill before the holiday season.

The Crawford County Economic Development Partnership began circulating a petition in support of the Department of Natural Resources sale of 1,800 acres in Grayling Township for the Main Street America Inc. theme park.

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners approved amendments to the county's uniform house numbering system, establishing a \$50 fine or one day in jail for homeowners who don't have visible numbers on their homes or signs at the end of their driveways.

| 10 |

Mercy Hospital Grayling, the Crawford AuSable School District, District Health Department #10 and the Crawford, Oscoda, Ogemaw and Roscommon Intermediate School District

(C.O.O.R. ISD) joined together to provide SleepSacks to all newborns to prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

The Frederic Township Fire Department received a \$1,000 grant from the Northern Michigan American Petroleum Institute to install GPS units in the fire department's ambulances and rescue units to assist emergency personnel in responding to accidents and medical calls more quickly and efficiently.

The City of Grayling's Downtown Development Authority hosted a forum to discuss the joint marketing of events and to coordinate promotional efforts with representatives from the Grayling Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Grayling Visitors Bureau, the Crawford County Economic Development Partnership, the Grayling Uptown District Association, the Grayling Promotional Association and the Grayling Recreation Authority.

Grayling builder John Cochrane, the owner of the project management firm J.T. Cochrane Construction, was featured in a northeastern Michigan edition of *The Builder's Journal*, a trade magazine which highlights the work of exceptional builders in the region, for a log style home he built for Michele and Jeff Steffey.

| 17 |

The Grayling Charter

Township Board filed a lawsuit against the City of Grayling over a dispute regarding the administration of the fire department that the municipalities operate. They sought the return of a committee of township and city officials to oversee the operations or to divide the fire department assets and equipment owned by the township and the city.

The Devereaux Memorial Crawford County Library unveiled a mural done by local artist Terry Dickinson portraying sock monkeys reading books and relaxing in the trees of a forest. It was another initiative to support the children and families of troops who are deployed to fight the global war on terrorism.

The Grayling City/Township Fire Department was dispatched to a fire that occurred at the Crawford County Jail when a commercial clothes dryer, used in the Crawford County Jail, malfunctioned.

James Hilbrecht, the owner of Northern Power Sweeping Inc., was cited by the Department of Environmental Quality for disposing of street sweepings at the Skyline Ski and Country Club, and was ordered to cease disposing of the waste on the property and clean up the debris.

| 24 |

The Crawford County Sheriff's Office received a high tech armored vehicle which will be used by Northern Michigan Mutual

Aide, a SWAT team that includes sheriff's deputies, city and tribal police officers from 17 northern Michigan Counties, when responding to calls where there are barricaded gunmen. The vehicle was received from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

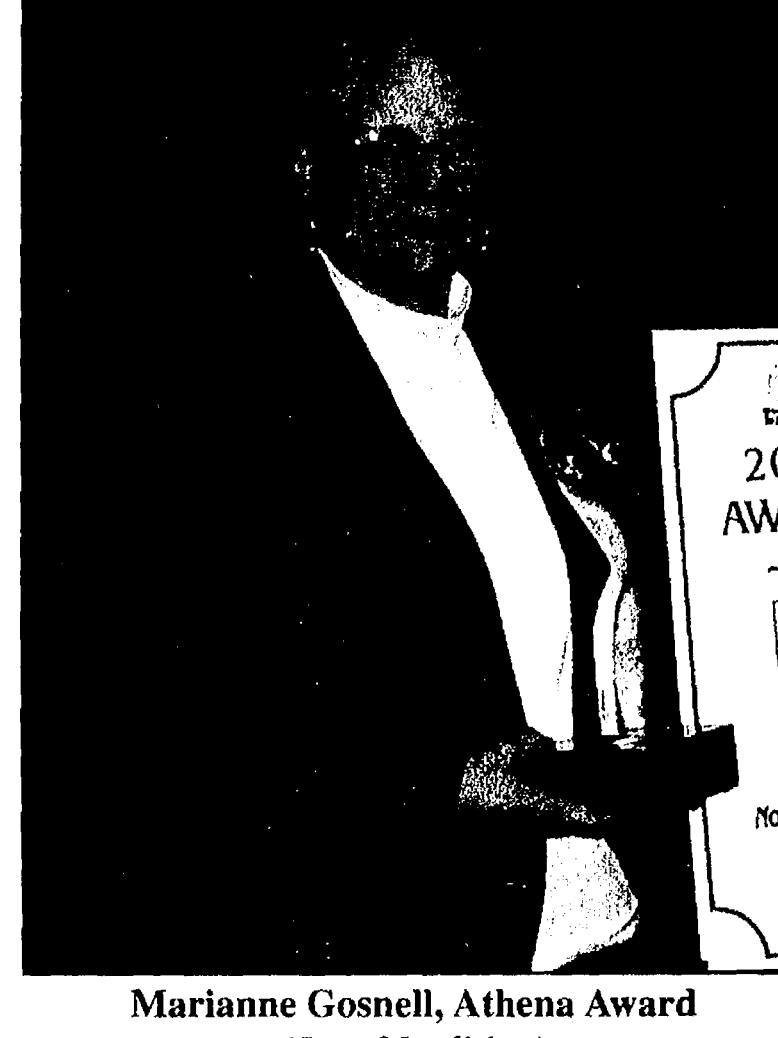
The Frederic Township Board pulled the plug on a plan to create a special assessment district to fund ambulance and fire department operations, after dozens of residents objected to the new form of taxation.

Donald Henry and his wife, Shirley, were recognized by the Crawford County Department of Human Services for five years of volunteer work, driving clients to doctor appointments and crucial medical treatments.

| 31 |

Marianne Gosnell, the coordinator for the Toys for Tots program in Crawford County, received the Athena Award. Dave Stephenson, the president of AJD Forest Products and chairman of the Crawford County Board of Commissioners, received the Citizen of the Year Award.

Mercy Hospital Grayling was recognized for the hospital's new \$6.3 million emergency room department with the Silver Lining Award. Doug Meroney was honored as Ambassador of the Year. Pam Pietrzyk, of Northland Area Federal Credit Union, received the Golden



Marianne Gosnell, Athena Award

(Jan. 31 edition)

Pineapple Award for her outstanding customer service skills. They received the awards at the Grayling Regional Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner and community awards night.

About 260 fourth and fifth grade students at the Grayling Elementary School put some glide and chill into their physical education classes as they took cross country skiing lessons from the Great Lakes Winter Trails Council, Hanson Hills and the Grayling Visitors Bureau.

A team from Grayling

won its eighth consecutive

Tip-Up Town Softball on Ice

Championship. The squad, which was sponsored by Gaylord Ford, posted a 4-0 record in the two-day, double elimination tournament held on the ice of Houghton Lake.

The City of Grayling received \$60,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development to purchase a new Dodge Charger police car, a laptop computer which will be used by police officers, personal protective firefighting gear, a mobile breathing air center and new five-inch fire hoses for the Grayling City/Township Fire Department.

FEBRUARY

| 7 |

Dr. Brian Gedeon, who practices internal medicine and pediatric medicine for Mercy Professional Services in Grayling, saved the life of a teenager from Kalkaska who was acting as a Good Samaritan trying to help a stuck motorist at a three-car accident scene in Grand Traverse County's South Boardman Township.

Wertz Warriors ended their 27th annual snowmobile endurance ride after zigzagging across northern Michigan. This included stops at the Ramada Inn in Grayling, breakfast at the Swamp II Bar and Restaurant in Frederic and visiting the Michigan Special Olympics Winter Games at the Grand Traverse Resort. In addition, over 150 athletes and coaches participated in the 2008 Area 4 Special Olympics Invitational Winter Games at Hanson Hills Recreation Area as a warm up for the Michigan Special Olympics Winter Games.

The Grayling Vikings honored basketball coach Mark Hartman for more than 20 years of service, including 14 years as coach of the seventh grade boys basketball team at Grayling Middle School, prior to his retirement at the end of the season.

| 14 |

The Watershed Art Project, a new organization launched to create an interest in fine arts, northern Michigan artists and to help generate business for downtown Grayling, planned to have a Spring Art Walk in conjunction with the opening day of trout fishing season.

More than 25 riders took part in the 4th annual Snowmobile Fun Run to benefit the AuSable Valley Animal Shelter, following a route from Dingman's Bar in Kalkaska through parts of Otsego County and then down through Crawford County ending at The Ole Barn in Grayling. Over \$1,350 was raised for the shelter animals with the help of several local businesses and animal lovers.

Grayling Boy Scout Alex Millar, of Troop 995, earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Millar completed a community project to build a set of stairs at the Grayling Township Nature Park, which leads to a path down to the AuSable River, to earn the highest rank a Boy Scout can achieve.

| 21 |

Grayling High School's varsity wrestling squad posted a 15-3 record in contested matches during a four-team district tourna-

ment at Elk Rapids, defeating the Cheboygan Chiefs and the Elk Rapids Elks to clinch a second consecutive district championship.

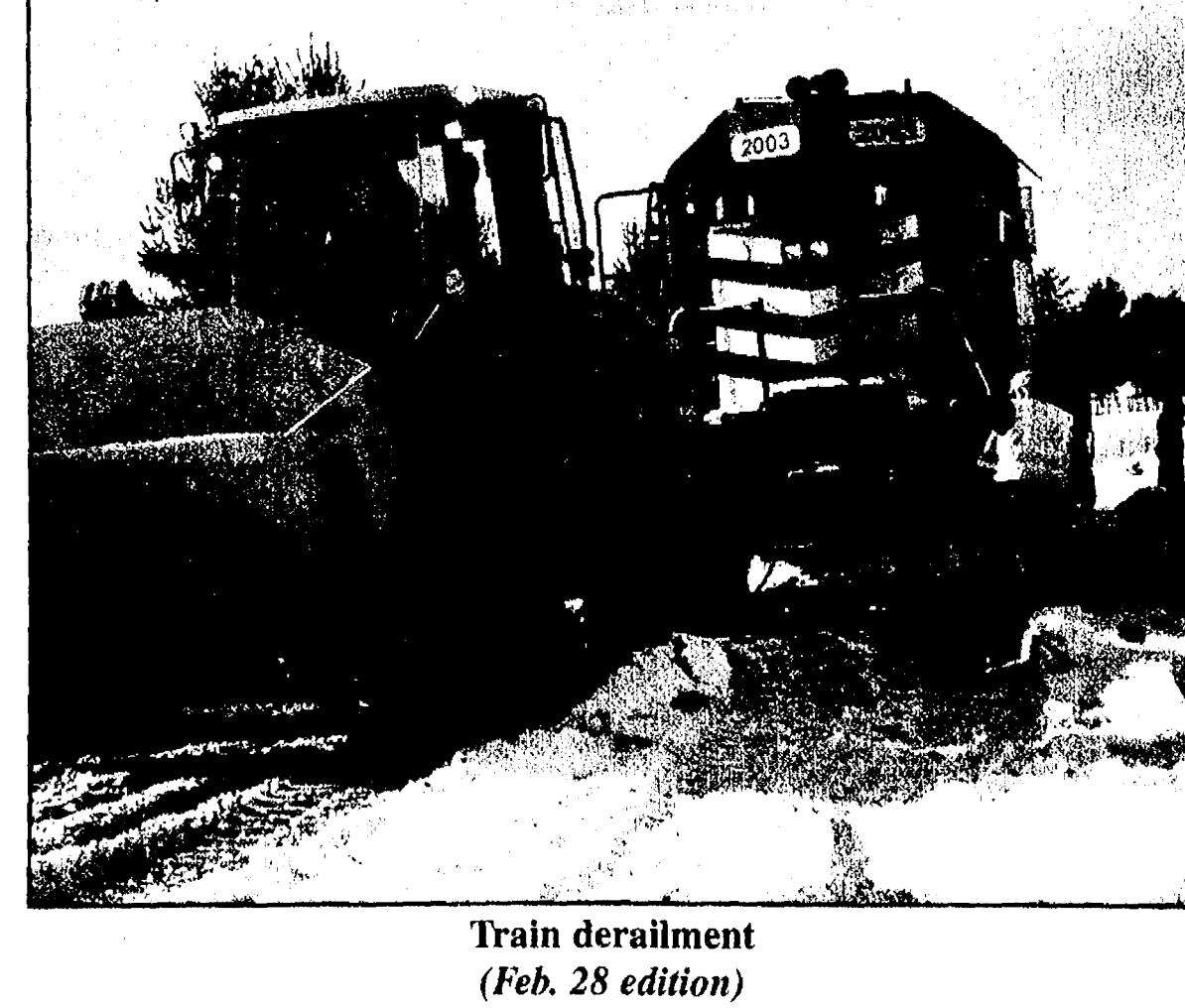
Kris Brown, a Grayling Special Olympian who helps serve the troops at Camp Grayling during annual training, was recognized for his service in the community as Modern Woodmen of America's "Hometown Hero."

Mercy Hospital Grayling received a \$117,697 federal Department of Health and Human Services grant to plan for a generator that will provide energy to the entire hospital when the power goes out.

| 28 |

The Grayling Lions Club launched their Alpha Leo Club, providing an opportunity for 23 Grayling Middle School and Grayling High School students to get involved in community service projects and social events and receive training in skills such as character development, leadership, networking and project management. The goal of the Alpha Leo Club is to serve the community, with the primary focus to serve the blind.

The Grayling Youth Booster Club held its inaugural Blizzard Fest, which included ice golfing and euchre tournaments at Camp



Train derailment

(Feb. 28 edition)

Grayling. James Walker and Ronnie Johnston captured the Blizzard Fest's traveling trophy for the ice golfing tournament, which was held on Lake Margrethe. Deanna Johnston and Paul VanNuck were the winners of the euchre tournament. Blizzard Fest, which organizers plan to make an annual event, raised about \$1,000 which will be used to help fund Grayling Youth Booster Club initiatives to support youth recreation programs and activities.

A Lake State Railway

train fell off the tracks due to ice, freezing rain and snow that had built up on the tracks near the rail crossing at the I-75 Business Loop. Crawford County Sheriff's Deputies and troopers from the Houghton Lake Post of the Michigan State Police directed traffic as a loader from the Crawford County Road Commission was used to move the train cars and right the locomotive back on the tracks.

Grayling High School held its "Snowgoing" festivities, which included a

dance, a fund-raiser, a spirit competition and the selection of a Snowgoing court. More than 300 students attended the Snowgoing dance. The freshman class won the spirit belt and the student body raised \$121.69 in a penny war which went to Alternatives in Motion, a nonprofit organization which provides wheelchairs to people who need them but cannot afford them, don't qualify for financial assistance or are uninsured.

(2008 Year In Review

Continued on 12A)

YEAR IN REVIEW

MARCH

| 6 |

Grayling jazz musician Andy Hunter, who lives in Brooklyn and plays in the Mingus Big Band, achieved another milestone in his career, playing trombone with the Saturday Night Live house band.

William John Bonkowski, a former Crawford County Sheriff's Deputy who also served as a school liaison and DARE officer, was arrested for a felony drug charge during a week long round up of drug arrests in Crawford County conducted by the Strike Investigative Narcotics Group and Crawford County Sheriff's

Deputies.

Members of the Student Senate from Grayling High School interviewed and made videos of seven war veterans who reside at Mercy Manor. The videos were compiled for the school's annual Veteran's Day program, which the Student Senate is charged with organizing.

| 13 |

Increasing demand for medical care at the AuSable Free Clinic prompted the move to have its staff work full-time, which was supported by a \$20,850 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

The Mt. Hope Lutheran Church Youth Group participated in a 30 hour famine during a weekend at the church and raised \$652 to help feed starving children through World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families and their communities worldwide to tackle the causes of poverty and injustice. The youth volunteered at the Crawford County Devereaux Memorial Library and the AuSable Valley Animal Shelter during the project.

The Grayling Regional Chamber of Commerce launched a Junior

Ambassador Club to encourage high school students to become active in chamber and community events, perform community service and learn from one-on-one contact with the business community.

| 20 |

The Grayling Senior Center partnered with Crawford County Michigan State University Extension Office's Teen Connections program to bring virtual bowling, using the Nintendo Wii, to the senior center.

Architects and engineers began design plans for a \$33.6 million project to build new barracks at Camp

Grayling, boosting the capability of the military post to train soldiers year round for the global war on terrorism.

Timbering of a 49-acre stand of oak in the Mason Tract, pristine property which surrounds the South Branch of the AuSable River, created a stir with some forestry foes and Crawford County residents.

| 27 |

Grayling bowler Lance Davis rolled a perfect 300 game at the American Legion Lounge and Lanes, his second and only the sixth perfect game in the bowling alley's history.

46th Circuit Court Judge

Janet M. Allen was recognized by the Girl Scouts for serving as a role model for young women, due to her service to the community and for her accomplishments in the legal field, with a 2008 Women of Distinction award. Allen received the honor from the Girl Scouts of Mitten Bay, which covers a 21-county region in mid and northeast Lower Michigan.

The Grayling High School Players had a successful production of "Alice in Wonderland," wowing audiences with their colorful costumes, stage sets and performances.

APRIL

| 3 |

The Grayling Recreation Authority and Northwood's Archery Club teamed up to bring archery back to Hanson Hills, including youth programs, adult leagues and youth leagues.

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox, Connecticut attorney Lawrence Friedman, who owns a home in Frederic, and Inergy Propane LLC reached an agreement to resolve the claims of excessive pricing of propane. Friedman, a customer of Gaylord Gas, a company owned by Inergy Propane, filed a class action lawsuit in Crawford County Circuit Court for propane prices charged to area customers. 46th Circuit Court Judge Janet M. Allen ruled that Inergy Propane had violated the Michigan Consumer Protection Act after two days of testimony in court. Allen ordered Gaylord Gas to reimburse its customers for overpriced propane and

issued a temporary restraining order to prevent the company from collecting fees or continuing to overcharge customers.

A 41-year-old South Branch Township man took his own life by cutting his head with a chain saw after unsuccessfully trying to reconcile an estranged marriage with his ex-wife.

| 10 |

46th Circuit Court Judge Dennis F. Murphy upheld a conviction for Lawrence Edward Baumgart of Roscommon, who was accused of neglecting a yellow labrador named "Thor" in a high profile animal abuse case decided by a jury in June of 2007. Baumgart tried to appeal his conviction for one count of animal abandoning/cruelty.

A group of investors opened The Old AuSable Fly Shop and Old AuSable Livery at the former Fly Factory and Ray's Canoeing property. Steve Southard and family moved The Fly

Factory and Ray's Canoeing across the road to property where Chief David Shoppenagon built a house in Grayling in 1876. Shoppenagon served as a hunting and fishing guide for timbermen and visitors to the Grayling area, and also built canoes and made paddles before he died in 1911.

The Houghton Lake Area Friends of the National Rifle Association, which covers Roscommon, Crawford, Ogemaw, Clare and Missaukee Counties, was formed to raise funds and apply for grants to support sportsmen clubs, gun clubs and organizations that promote youth shooting sports activities and the use of shooting facilities which are open to the public.

| 17 |

Huron Pines and local angler and conservation groups were awarded a \$400,000 Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant to do

stream enhancement work on the AuSable River by placing large woody debris in the river.

Crawford County emergency response officials received a \$27,137 grant from the Federal Department of Homeland Security to purchase a rapid response shelter that will be used when responding to catastrophes. The shelter is a large tent that is able to be erected quickly at an emergency scene and is equipped with a generator used to provide electricity, heat or air conditioning in the interior.

Hail Your Highness, a Christian rock band led by two Grayling sisters Jessie and Niki Bobenmoyer, released their first CD titled "Fatal Stares and Deadly Prayers," at The Matrix Youth Center located at the Resurrection Life Fellowship Church.

| 24 |

Twenty fire departments and EMS organizations in Crawford and Roscommon

Counties, including the Grayling City/Township Fire Department and the South Branch Township Fire Department, received pet oxygen masks from the Invisible Fence Company. Beaver Creek Township resident Kathy Pardo Carlson, a paramedic for the Denton Township Fire Department and a firefighter and EMT for the Higgins Township Fire Department/EMS, spearheaded the effort to get the pet oxygen masks to use on family pets when they are subjected to the inhalation of smoke or toxins. The masks allow emergency responders to administer oxygen to pets while not jeopardizing themselves if the animal is revived, becomes fearful and attempts to bite the responder when doing mouth to snout breathing.

The Grayling Fish Hatchery Steering Committee received a \$26,000 Rural Enterprises grant from the United States Department of Agriculture

to gut the interior of the historic fish hatchery building. The grant was used to remove the paneling, insulation, wiring and utilities from the building's interior, some of which was vandalized over the years while the building was closed.

Fawn Filley of Grayling was selected as Miss Teen Michigan Galaxy and was chosen to represent Michigan in the Miss Teen Galaxy Pageant in Orlando, Fla.

About 50 people attended an evening with noted chef, author and television personality Eric Villegas at the Devereaux Memorial Library. Villegas is the author of "Fork in the Road," a book based on his award winning PBS cooking show, and features recipes using Michigan's best grown and produced ingredients. Villegas' visit to Grayling was through the Library of Michigan's 2008 Michigan Notable Authors Tour.

MAY

| 1 |

A wildfire, which started in an area east of I-75 and north of the Four Mile Road rest area on Thursday, April 24, destroyed 1,345 acres of land, destroyed three homes, six other structures and damaged three other homes.

A team representing Weyerhaeuser won the Grayling Promotional Association's 21st Annual Pictionary Olympics held at the Grayling Eagles Club. 46th Trial Court Judges, Janet M. Allen and Monte J. Burmeister, and Marianne Gosnell, the coordinator for the Toys for Tots program in Crawford County, served as the Pictionary Olympics judges.

Nathan Pickell, of Grayling Boy Scout Troop 995, earned the rank of Eagle Scout, which is the highest rank that can be attained in Boy Scouts. Pickell's Eagle Scout project took place at Grayling Mercy Manor, where he and fellow Boy Scouts built a wheelchair accessible raised flower garden for residents who still like to get outside and garden.

Students at the AuSable Primary School raised over \$5,000 for the American Heart Association through the Hoops for Heart program. Scott Baker, the AuSable Primary School's

physical education teacher, motivated his kindergarten through third grade students to raise money for the cause by creating teams and a tournament bracket to encourage the youngsters to complete their Hoops for Heart activities.

| 8 |

Developers for the Mainstreet America Inc. theme park claimed that the April 24 wildfire, that destroyed 1,345 acres of land south of Grayling, delayed the property purchase request to the Department of Natural Resources, since financiers for the project needed assessments of the damage caused by the fire before financial commitments for the project could be made.

About 170 youngsters took advantage of the Kids Night Out held at the Grayling High School, which was organized as a fund-raiser by the Class of 2011 and included games, movies and snacks.

The Grayling Cooperative Preschool marked its 40th anniversary with a Truck Fair, featuring fire trucks, heavy equipment and police and EMS vehicles at Hanson Hills. Nancy Gazan and Marian Whittenberg, whose husbands worked at Camp Lavior, a youth detention facility that served

as the predecessor for Camp Shawano, came up with the idea to start the preschool in 1966.

| 15 |

Sam Davis, age 8 of Grayling, was one of 15 youngsters from across North America who were selected to compete in the KTM Junior Supercross Challenge, held as part of the Detroit Motocross at Ford Field.

City of Grayling officials vowed to improve communications and implement new policies regarding the maintenance of Elmwood Cemetery after a mass cleaning around grave sites resulted in mementos and keepsakes being thrown away.

Crawford AuSable School Board of Education incumbents Sandra Enos and Jane Lange retained their seats in the annual school election.

City of Grayling officials started an adopt-a-rain garden program in an effort to beautify the community and to help protect the water quality of the AuSable River.

| 22 |

Crawford County District Court Judge Monte J. Burmeister decided that there was probable cause to bind William John Bonkowski, a former Crawford County Sheriff's

Deputy and school DARE officer, over to Circuit Court for a trial on two counts of controlled substance-delivery/manufacture marijuana.

About 120 people attended the 8th annual Men Who Cook event held at the Camp Grayling Officer's Club, sampling an array of appetizers, main dishes, soups, side dishes and desserts served up by area men who know their way around the kitchen.

The Crawford County Sheriff's Office held its annual Law Enforcement Memorial, to honor fallen police officers killed in the line of duty, as part of National Police Week.

| 29 |

Crawford AuSable School District officials celebrated the significant educational and professional accomplishments of its graduates, inducting eight former students into the school district's Alumni Hall of Fame. This was the fourth class inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame. Photos and bios of Hall of Fame inductees are placed at the entrance of the Grayling High School to inspire the future professional and educational endeavors of the students.

The AuSable Free Clinic netted a \$22,439 grant from



April 24 wildfire
(May 1 edition)

Holly resurface the track at the Grayling High School. The track's rubber surface had a life of seven years, but had not been resurfaced in 12 years due to the district's budget issues and the need to focus on other school building and facility projects.

The Crawford AuSable School Board approved a \$77,900 bid to have Goddard Coatings Inc. of

Holly resurface the track at the Grayling High School. The track's rubber surface had a life of seven years, but had not been resurfaced in 12 years due to the district's budget issues and the need to focus on other school building and facility projects.

(2008 Year In Review
Continued on 13A)

| JUNE |

| 5 |

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners voted to have a millage proposal, to fund the maintenance and repair of local roads done by the Crawford County Road Commission, placed on the Nov. 4 General Election ballot.

A 400 pound black bear perched in a maple tree in the backyard of a home owned by Lesley and Joel Lord and caused a stir in the neighborhood located off of Ionia Street, east of downtown Grayling, until Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologists sedated and caged the creature.

Grayling High School's varsity baseball team won its third ever district championship - its first since 1993 - with victories over

the Benzie Central Huskies and the Cadillac Vikings in a tournament held at Gaylord High School.

| 12 |

Valerie Jones, an emergency department technician for Mercy Hospital Grayling, helped another registered nurse revive a man by administering CPR while she was at the Gaylord Cinema to see the movie, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

An area, used to remove and prevent the spread of hazardous materials in Mercy Hospital Grayling's new emergency room, was utilized for the first time when an oilfield worker was exposed to potentially hazardous gases. The oilfield worker was brought to the emergency room after an

explosion occurred at a well site in Beaver Creek Township.

The Kesseler Family Fitness Center at Grayling High School was dedicated and unveiled to the public. The school addition was named the Kesseler Family Fitness Center in recognition of Phyllis and Roger Kesseler, who donated \$50,000 towards the high school weight room and physical fitness center, helping the Crawford AuSable School District meet its goal to raise \$100,000 for the addition.

The owners and patrons of Spike's "Keg O' Nails" celebrated 75 years of enjoying burgers and cold brews. Harold "Spike" MacNeven opened Spike's "Keg O' Nails" for business the day after Prohibition ended (May 29, 1933).

MacNeven held a contest with a \$20 first prize to name his new business. The winning entry, "Keg O' Nails," was submitted by Grayling resident Laura (Welch) Smith, reflecting the area's lumber and timber heritage.

| 21 |

The Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve, which is based in Roscommon, has partnered with AuSable River Center, Anglers of the AuSable and Kirtland Community College, receiving a \$13,297 Department of Environmental Quality grant to train volunteers for an ongoing study of the AuSable River watershed.

Grayling High School (GHS) seniors Jonathan Lovely and Leigha Stevens, and Chris Wells a 2008 GHS graduate, traveled to

Bangkok, Thailand, to perform with the Lions of Michigan All State Band.

The Crawford County Road Commission voted to pulverize Wakeley Bridge Road from M-72 to the bridge over the AuSable River, reducing it to a gravel road until the Road Commission has the money to repave it and address safety issues on the roadway.

| 26 |

Grayling resident Cathy Lester traveled to Iran to visit former students, despite speculation that Iran has nuclear weapons for an attack on another country in the Middle East. Lester, who taught English to students at the University of Isfahan from 1972 to 1975, said there was little evidence of hostilities in Iran

during her visit.

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners began studying a special events ordinance to protect the welfare of residents and to protect the community. The special events ordinance was prompted by the Camp Grayling Rock & Roll Air Show held in July 2007.

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners began studying the possibility of establishing a county ordinance that would allow ORVs to travel on the shoulders of roadways to get to designated trails, coinciding with the passage of a state law giving them authority to pass such a measure.

The months of July through December will be featured in next week's Crawford County Avalanche.

Legal Action

FORECLOSURE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Dennis K Kaiser and Therese M Kaiser, husband and wife, to New Century Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee, dated February 12, 2005 and recorded February 28, 2005 in Liber 673, Page 951, Crawford County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by US Bank National Association, as trustee, on behalf of the holders of the Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series NC 2005-HE4 by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Nine Thousand Two Hundred Eighty and 25/100 Dollars (\$109,280.25) including interest at 9.375% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the front door of the County Building in Grayling in Crawford County, Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on JANUARY 21, 2009. Said premises are located in the Township of Grayling, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 9, Whippoorwill, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 2, Page 51 and 52, of Plats, Crawford County Records. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later.

Commonly known as 897 Cherokee Trail, Roscommon MI 48653 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a or MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later.

Dated: DECEMBER 18, 2008 Northwestern Mortgage Company Mortgage Attorneys: Potestivo & Associates, P.C.

811 South Blvd. Suite 100 Rochester Hills, MI 48307

(248) 844-5123

Our File No: 08-01607

-25-1-8-15

LEY SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 1 OF PLATS, PAGE 68, CRAWFORD COUNTY RECORDS.

which also includes any interest Green Tree Servicing LLC (f/k/a Conseco Finance Servicing Corp.) may have in the 2000 Patriot Mobile Home, Serial Number LP10867BAIN.

The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of sale unless the property is found to be abandoned pursuant to MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be the later of thirty (30) days from the date of sale or fifteen (15) days from the date the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(b) was posted and mailed.

BRANDT, FISHER, ALWARD & ROY, P.C.

Green Tree Servicing LLC (f/k/a Conseco Finance Servicing Corp.)

By: DONALD A. BRANDT (P30183) Attorneys for Mortgagee 1241 E. Eighth Street, P.O. Box 5817, Traverse City, Michigan 49696-5817 (231) 941-9660

Dated: December 15, 2008

-25-1-8-15

Dated: December 18, 2008 For more information, please call: FC G 248.593.1310 Trott & Trott, P.C. Attorneys For Servicer 31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200 Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525 File #235592F01

-18-25-1-8

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Matthew S. Beattie a/k/a Matt S. Beattie, a single man, original mortgagor(s), to JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA, Mortgagee, dated December 7, 2007, and recorded on December 17, 2007 in Liber 689 on Page 603, in Crawford county records, Michigan, and assigned by said Mortgagee to Chase Home Finance LLC as assignee, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Forty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Nine And 89/100 Dollars (\$45,809.89), including interest at 7% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Crawford County, at 10:00 AM, on January 21, 2009.

Said premises are situated in Township of Frederic, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as: Commencing at the Northwest corner of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 28, Town 28 North, Range 4 West, thence South on the 1/8 line, 400 feet to the point of Beginning, thence East 125 feet, thence South to North right of way line of Cameron Bridge Road; thence Northwesterly along said right of way line to a point directly South of the point of beginning, thence North to the point of beginning, being a part of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 28, Town 28 North, Range 4 West.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 18, 2008

For more information, please call:

FC S 248.593.1304 Trott & Trott, P.C.

Attorneys For Servicer 31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200 Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525 File #207111F01

-18-25-1-8

FORECLOSURE

AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NOTIFY (248) 362-6100 IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. MORTGAGE SALE - Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Scott D. Myers and Lisa Myers, husband and wife of Crawford County, Michigan, Mortgagor to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Wilmington Finance, a division of AIG Federal Savings Bank dated the 10th day of November, A.D. 2005, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Crawford and State of Michigan, on the 17th day of November, A.D. 2005, Liber 678, Page 519 of Crawford Records, which said mortgage was assigned to US Bank National Association ND, thru mesne assignments, or which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of \$145,961.84

-18-25-1-8

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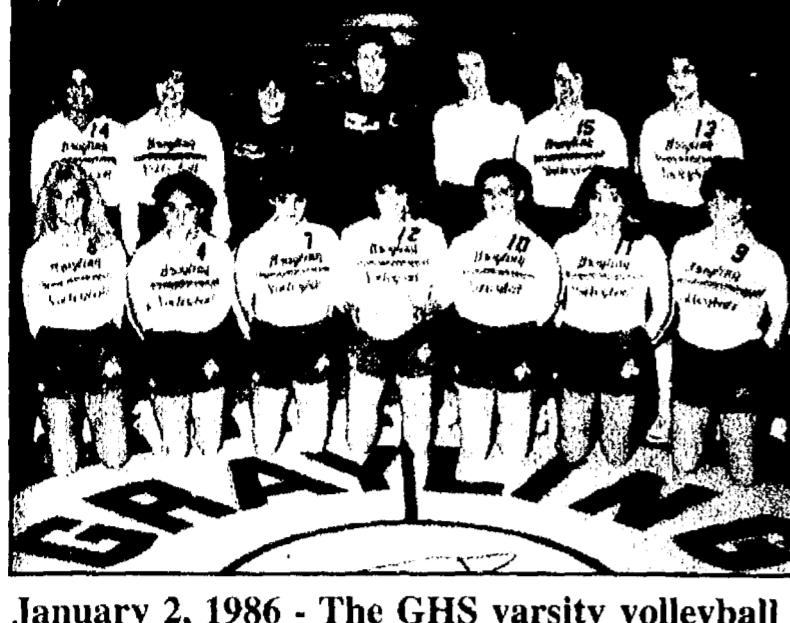
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

AS A DEBT

Features

www.crawfordcountyavalanche.com

A LOOK AT OUR PAST FROM THE PAGES OF THE AVALANCHE



January 2, 1986 - The GHS varsity volleyball team is shown here from left to right: (front row) Jamie Kaiser, Chris Schwartz, Stacey Hinds, Shelly Denton, Sue Casler, Julie Brooks, Starr Featherston; (back row) Piper Ostrowski, Beth Bedard, Coach Brown, Casey Adams, Shawn Denton, Kathy Partin and Wendy Pittman.

23 Years Ago
January 2, 1986

A south side building, that started as one of the first grocery stores in Grayling, burned Sunday in a fire that started around 10:15 a.m. The building was currently being used as a four-family apartment building. All families were able to evacuate. The building housed a grocery store on the south side and was probably built in the early 1900s.

Congress allocated \$800,000 in 1986 for the Huron-National Forest to acquire the 1,415 acre Wakeley Lake tract. A group called Trust for Public Land is expected to buy the land within the next couple of months and then

sell it to the National Forest Service through a land transfer.

The Grayling volleyball team took on Class A and Class B teams in an invitational on Dec. 21 at Big Rapids and brought home a second place trophy.

Fred Fisher, a junior, took first place at a 10 team wrestling tournament in Montague on Dec. 21. Fisher won three matches to capture the 132-pound weight class championship. Sophomores Bucky Monforton, Robert Johnson and Ward Jones took second place and Brian Kernstock, a freshman, brought home third place.

Scheer Motors announced the promotion of Bill Hart

to the position of general sales manager. Hart will take over the position on Jan. 1.

46 Years Ago
January 3, 1963

A group of eight Grayling High School senior girls are in the running for the selection of Miss Grayling 1963, or for the four coveted posts on her court. Those seeking the title are Julie Carlson, Cathy Deslaurier, Carole Gross, Carol Halstead, Toni Madsen, Penny Pettyjohn, Ginger Pratt and Sharon Williams.

The familiar landmark on North Down River Road, six miles east of Grayling known for many years as the "hayloft," burned to the ground on Dec. 31 from a fire of unknown origin. The building was the property of Mr. and Mrs. George Skingley, and was the scene of many dances and parties while they lived there. After they moved from the property, the barn was used mostly for storage. Furniture of the Skingleys and property of the Rod and Reel Club were completely destroyed.

The Mystics, Larry Andrews, Jon Bond, Pat Cox and Walt Fallon, traveled to Lansing on Dec. 22 to make a recording of the song "Summertime," from Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," at Don Lee Studios.

On sale this week at the Black and White Market are three dozen small eggs for \$1, five loaves of Old Home white bread for \$1 and two

pounds of homemade sausage for 98¢.

69 Years Ago

January 4, 1940

Fire, resulting from the explosion of a kerosene stove, caused quite a scare at the home of Robert Sorenson at the rear of the Quality Food Grocery store about 7:45 a.m. on Saturday. Windows in the shed where the stove was located were broken, the walls were charred and the stove was ruined. Smoke did a lot of damage to the walls in other parts of the home.

Gary Hatfield, the seven year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hatfield, fell through the ice into the AuSable River near the US-27 bridge, and as a result, is home from school with a severe cold. He wanted to see if the ice was strong enough to hold him when it cracked and he fell into water over his head. His brother Jimmy was nearby and pulled him out.

Eva Wingard has resigned her position as librarian at the city library. Alex Kochanowski will be the new librarian.

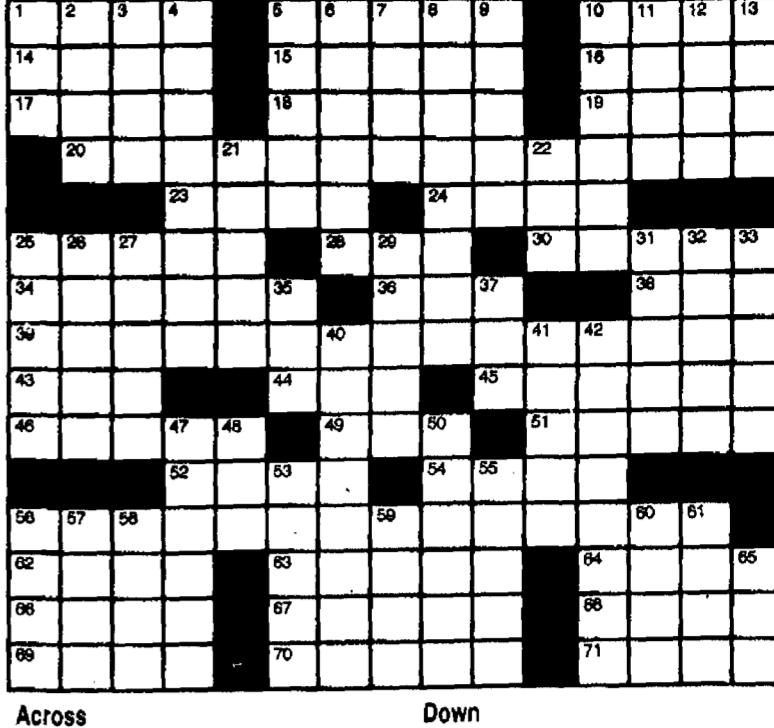
92 Years Ago

January 4, 1917

A new gas lamp has been put at the meat market in Frederic.

Wilbur Cochran's house in Frederic burned to the ground on Sunday. Nothing but one trunk, which contained some deeds, other papers and \$30, was saved.

CROSSWORD



Across

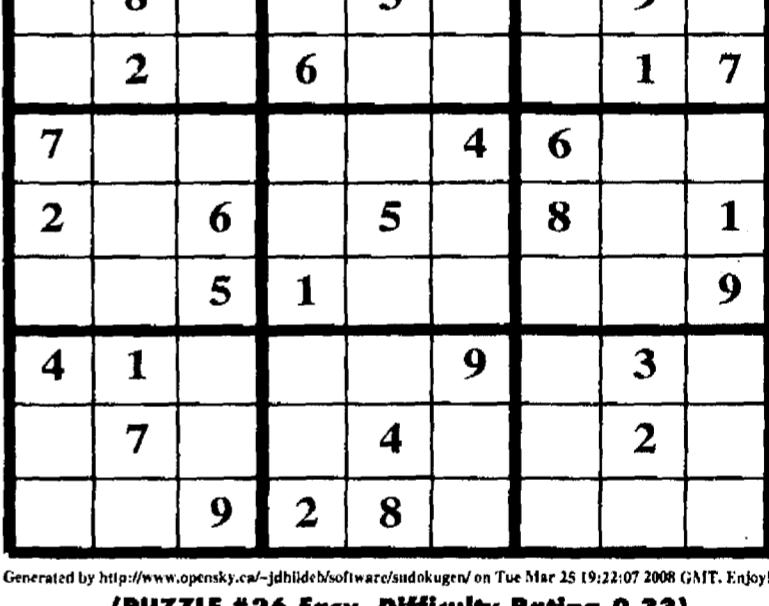
- 'No problem!'
- Points formed by two intersecting arcs
- Composes
- gin fizz
- Open, as a bottle
- Hodgepodge
- Fast feline
- Beauty pageant wear
- Supernatural life force
- One who grows produce for market
- Artificial bait
- Butcher's offering
- Bitter
- Mr. abroad
- Hike
- Alloy of copper and tin
- Carbonium, e.g.
- Appia
- International organization formed in 1920 to promote cooperation and peace among nations
- "Yadda, yadda, yadda"
- Bubkes
- High-speed passenger train
- Doctor's order
- Grassland
- Exposed to the wind
- Baker's unit
- Stairway in India leading down to a landing on the water
- Make something sound sensational
- Used in plastics
- Calyx part
- Aim
- Campus military org.
- Carry away, in a way
- At one time, at one time
- "... quam vider" (North Carolina's motto)
- Freud contemporary
- "... of Eden"
- Does

Down

- Clairvoyance, e.g.
- Astringent
- "Brave New World" drug
- Animal in its second year
- More attractive
- Consolidates
- Heroin, slangily
- 12th episode of season 3 of "Lost"
- Extra
- Big citrus fruit
- Dash
- Opening time, maybe
- Fly high
- Fast-growing vine from eastern Asia
- Apply gently
- Leaps inept
- Aegean vacation locale
- Kind of motel
- M-1, for one
- Convex molding
- Strength
- "Yum!"
- Dusk, to Donne
- Apprehend
- Region rich in petroleum deposits
- Occurring in a tube
- Badly timed
- Lorraine
- Constrictor
- Paternal relative
- Baffled
- More healthy
- "No problem!"
- "Aeneid" figure
- Brings home
- Girasol, e.g.
- Abysmal test score
- power

SUDOKU

RULES: Fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear once in each row, column and 3x3 box.



Generated by <http://www.opensudoku.com> on Tue Mar 25 19:22:07 2008 GMT. Enjoy!

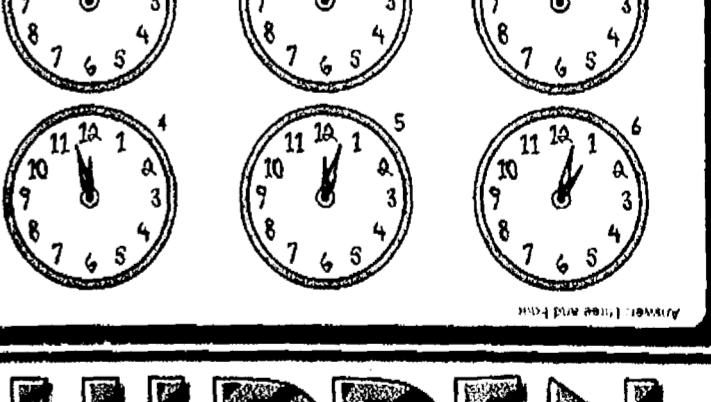
(PUZZLE #26 Easy, Difficulty Rating 0.33)

ANSWERS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS



FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?



ANSWER: Top-left and bottom-right.

Classified

www.crawfordcountyavalanche.com

Classifieds must be paid for in advance
Display Advertising Rate - \$8 per column inch
Deadline for Display Classifieds - Noon, Monday
Classifieds by the word rates - \$6 for 15 words or
less, 10¢ per each additional word; includes
internet listings: www.crawfordcountyavalanche.com
Classified by the word deadline - Noon, Tuesday

1.

Real Estate

2-3 BEDROOM 2 bath, year round ranch in peaceful setting, on maintained road, near lakes and snowmobiling. 2482 sandy Trail, south off M-72, 7.3 miles east of Grayling, price reduced. (586) 446-0004, (586) 713-7500. (6/2/06tf/1)

1.

Real Estate

MOBILE HOME 2-3 bedroom for sale, owner finance on lot, 989-348-5278 or 586-405-0030. (3/20/08tf/1)

LAKE MARGRETHE Grayling, large waterfront home, many features, \$284,900. 989-344-1269 or 989-915-9467. (-11-18-25-1/1)

2.

For Rent

MOBILE HOMES Located in Grayling Mobile Estates. 3 bedroom, 1 bath and natural gas. \$485 a month plus security deposit. Call Ron at 989-348-6761. (-1/2)

MOBILE HOMES 4 RENT 2 and 3 bedroom, \$425 and up. Also, trailers for sale. 348-5278. (9/28/06tf/2)

TWO BEDROOM 1 bath. Washer and dryer hook up, refrigerator and range included, utilities not included, no pets. \$450 a month plus security. 6272 Old Lake Rd. 989-348-4716. (11/6/08tf/2)

2.

For Rent

SENIOR APARTMENTS AVAILABLE at The Brook Retirement Communities.

Offering Independent and Assisted Living. Lots of amenities, activities, beautiful surroundings and affordable living. Communities located in: Houghton Lake (989) 422-7200 Roscommon (989) 275-4000, West Branch (989) 343-1400, Gladwin (989) 426-8700. Call or stop by today for a personalized tour. (5/10/2007tf/2)

COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR RENT Lots of parking, stand alone structure and good location. 989-348-8471. (12/4/08tf/2)

2.

For Rent

BIG HOUSE Mobile homes and cabins at Lost Acres. 4 bedroom log home, \$575; 2 bedroom mobile homes, \$375 plus utilities; cabins from \$275 - \$375 with free utilities. 11004 - 11010 N. Old US 27, no pets at all. 1-877-227-6976, more details at www.qualityhomerenitals.net (Northern Michigan Units). (11/20/08tf/2)

HOME FOR RENT 4 to 6 bedroom, 2 bath executive retreat with outbuildings in Lovells. \$1,200 per month plus utilities. Call 989-732-2600. (7/10/08tf/2)

HOUSE FOR RENT 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, private wooded area. Security deposit plus utilities. No Pets. 989-348-8621. (-1/2)

2.

For Rent

KITCHENETTE UNITS FOR RENT by the week or month. 989-348-8471. (12/4/08tf/2)

ARBOR COURT APARTMENTS In Grayling has an immediate opening in our 2 bedroom. Rental assistance is available and rent is based on 30 percent of the adjusted monthly gross income. Call Pam for details 989-732-6237. Equal housing opportunity. TDD #1-800-649-3777. (LR3/26/09/2)

BEAUTIFUL FULLY FURNISHED Luxury apartment in downtown Grayling on the AuSable River. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Open living room design. \$900 a month plus utilities. Includes all lawn maintenance and snowplowing. 989-370-1290. (10/2/08tf/2)

3.

Employment

3.

Employment

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT - GRAYLING, MI Agility Health Inc., a therapist owned company since 1988, has a full-time position available in both inpatient and SNF. Competitive, market-driven compensation and comprehensive benefits. Degree from an accredited Physical Therapy Assistant program required. Email Resumes to brett@agilityhealth.com fax to 800-311-6193 or call 800-876-1041 ext. 5016 for more information. EOE.

3.

Employment

MERCY HOSPITAL GRAYLING

Partnering with **MUNSON HEALTHCARE**

Knowledge to Heal, Compassion to Care

FEATURED JOB OPENINGS

REGISTERED NURSES

EMERGENCY DEPT.

Full time Nights position available. ER experience preferred

OR POSITIONS

Current openings for experience OR nurses.

CCU

Previous experience preferred, Full time positions available.

OTHER AVAILABLE POSITIONS

ED TECH

Full time positions available, previous EMT experience preferred.

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

New grads welcome

Please check out the full list of open positions on our web site.

We offer competitive wages and excellent fringe benefits. Interested persons please contact: Organization and Talent Effectiveness Department Mercy Hospital Grayling 1100 E. Michigan Ave Grayling, MI 49738 Recruitment Line (989)348-0358 Fax (989)348-0485 E-mail slewis@trinity-health.org Check our web site at mercygrayling.munsonhealthcare.org

3.

Employment

WINTER CREWS NEEDED Our growing company needs men and women to work on 3 to 6 person crews setting up equipment at work sites. Company vehicle provided, no personal vehicle needed. \$400 per week plus bonuses (per company program). Call for interview, 989-732-8439. (-1/3)

3.

Employment

3.

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4. Services Offered

RTH HOME IMPROVEMENT all your interior and exterior needs. Garages, additions, drywall, painting, roofing, siding, decks, and more. Licensed and insured, free estimates. Rob Harrington 989-344-1383. (9/16/04tf/4)

D. HAWES / Driver's Training: Northern Driving School will be offering classes year-round in Grayling and surrounding areas. The only local driving school in Crawford and Roscommon counties. Segment I \$275, Segment II \$40. 989-344-2470. (05/22/08tf/4)

PROFESSIONAL HEMMING jeans, dresses, slacks, etc. Custom bedding, weddings. 989-344-2444. (-4-18-1/4)

SNOW CLEANING Free estimates. 989-348-5813, ask for Tim. (-18-25-1-8/4)

6. Wanted

Wanted: Volunteers to help design, search for, borrow and, if necessary, make and/or alter costumes for actors performing in a production of "Our Town." Work begins in February. Early 1900's costumes needed for 25 actors by late March. "Our Town" performances set for April 16, 17, 18 at Kirtland Community College. College will pay for material if costumes need to be made. Contact Technical Director **Josh Jurgess** at 989-275-5000 Ext. 311 for date of January costume planning meeting.

4. Services Offered

SNOW & ICE REMOVAL Off roofs, snowplowing and entranceways cleared. 30 years experience. Also oak firewood, 16" to 18". Call Jerry, 989-348-7046. (-1-8-15/4)

SNOWPLOWING AND ROOF SHOVELING Reasonable rates and senior discounts, 989-390-1850. (-1-8-15-22/4)

S N O W P L O W I N G Reasonable rates, Grayling area. 989-390-1367 or 989-745-1850. (-11-18-25-1/4)

KNEE DEEP SNOW REMOVAL Competitive rates for excellent work! Walkways are included in our service. 989-619-6742. (-18-25-1-8/4)

SNOW REMOVAL Roofs, driveways, walkways and sidewalks. Free estimates. Call 989-390-0601 or 989-390-3895. (-1/4)

6. Wanted

4. Services Offered

ROOFTOP SNOW REMOVAL Reasonable rates. Call 989-797-4428. (-25-1/4)

HALL FOR RENT 120 person capacity, Beaver Creek Township. Call 989-275-8878. (-18-25-1-8-15-22-29-5-12-19-26-5-12-19-26-2-9-16/4)

5. For Sale

CABIN LOGS rough sawn lumber, kiln dried lumber, tongue & groove, log siding, custom sawing. T. Warren Sawmill. 989-619-0840. (LR01/29/08/5)

MARTY'S FIREWOOD Oak firewood \$55 per face cord. Also poplar, maple, cherry - for less. Buyers of standing or down timber, 989-390-3930. (-18-25-1-8-15-22/5)

PUPPIES FOR SALE Shih-Tzu poodle mix, eight weeks old, one male, one female, shots and wormed.

Small lap dogs, great Christmas gift, \$250 or best offer. Call 989-701-5535. (-18-25-1/5)

5. For Sale

YAMAHA LS 2000 270 hp jet boat, year 2000. A must see, very low hours. \$10,500 OBO, must sell. 989-344-8802 or 231-624-0107. (11/13/08tf/5)

1999 SKI DOO MXZ 600, 2,162 miles with studs and pipes, \$1,800. 231-229-5015. (-11-18-25-1/5)

6. Wanted

WARREN FOREST

PRODUCTS Now buying standing timber. Call 989-348-7133 during day and leave a message. Evenings call 231-229-4845, ask for Chan. (LR01/29/08/6)

BUYING JUNK VEHICLES Price varies with size but will pay the most. Call Don at 231-587-0856 or 888-468-7313. (10/11/07tf/6)

BUYING SCRAP METAL All grades. SMR 989-275-6041. (10/16/08tf/6)

8. Announcements

MIP and anger management programs. GRACE Center, Grayling. 989-348-2544. (10/11/07tf/8)

MOVING AUCTION

January 3, 10 a.m. Perry Creek & M-33, Mio. Furniture; kitchen; household; glass; DVDs; generator; jobsite air compressor; welder; tools; guns and more! View online or call. Lets Talk Auction! 989-848-5158, www.LetsTalkAuction.com. (-1/8)

Signs & Banners of All Kinds

- Full Color Banners
- Green Address Signs
- Lighted Message Board Rental

Pete Kocefas
989-348-8627 or 1-800-948-1268
www.SledheadsUSA.com

8. Announcements

GUN AND KNIFE SHOW Cadillac, January 3rd and 4th. Wexford Arena, Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 22 rifle door prize. J & J Sport Shows. 1-800-968-5016. (-25-1/8)

11. Automotive

CAR DETAILING Let JJ's Motor Mall make your vehicle sparkle inside & out! 348-7710. (5/31/07tf/11)

AUTO GLASS

repair and replacement now available at JJ's Auto Glass. 348-7710. (9/29/05tf/11)

THE CAR LOT is always open in the Avalanche classifieds. (989) 348-6811

8. Announcements

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE

Would like to thank the following supporters of the 2008 Christmas season decorations:

- * City of Grayling
- * Forest Dunes
- * Kodiak Group
- * Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home
- * Hart Pontiac -GMC-Buick
- * AuSable Family Dental
- * Western Trails Motel
- * Grayling Eagles #3465
- * Flick & Sons
- * Pizza Hut
- * Shel-Haven Penrods
- * Jack Millikin, Inc.
- * Goodales Bakery
- * Dr. Dami
- * Dr. Carolyn DiPonto
- * Riverland
- * Dianes Car Wash
- * Xpress Copy
- * Roger & Nancy Wolos
- * Sheriff Kirk Wakefield
- * 7-Eleven
- * Citizens Bank

11. Automotive

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OIL CHANGE IN 29 MINUTES

Oil change

(up to five quarts of oil)

Oil filter

Chassis lube

Fluid level checks

Brakes - differential

transfer case - transmission

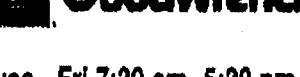
windshield washer

25-point inspection



AS LOW AS
\$28.95

SCHEER MOTORS



Hours: Mon 7:30 am -7:00 pm • Tues - Fri 7:30 am -5:30 pm

989-348-5451 - US-27 North, Grayling

Don't Be Left Out!
Subscribe Today!

Local \$20
Crawford, Roscommon, Otsego, Kalkaska & Oscoda Counties

Seasonal Address Changes Add \$4

Non-Local \$30

Foreign \$60

\$2 Senior Citizen discount on all rates. Must be age 60 or older.



Grayling's Hometown Newspaper Since 1879